MESMERISM IN DISEASE:

A

FEW PLAIN FACTS,

WITH A

SELECTION OF CASES,

PROVING ITS EFFICACY IN

DEAFNESS, TIC DOULOUREUX, ASTHMA,
ST. VITUS'S DANCE, EPILEPSY,
HYSTERIA, SPINAL, AND OTHER AFFECTIONS
OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

BY

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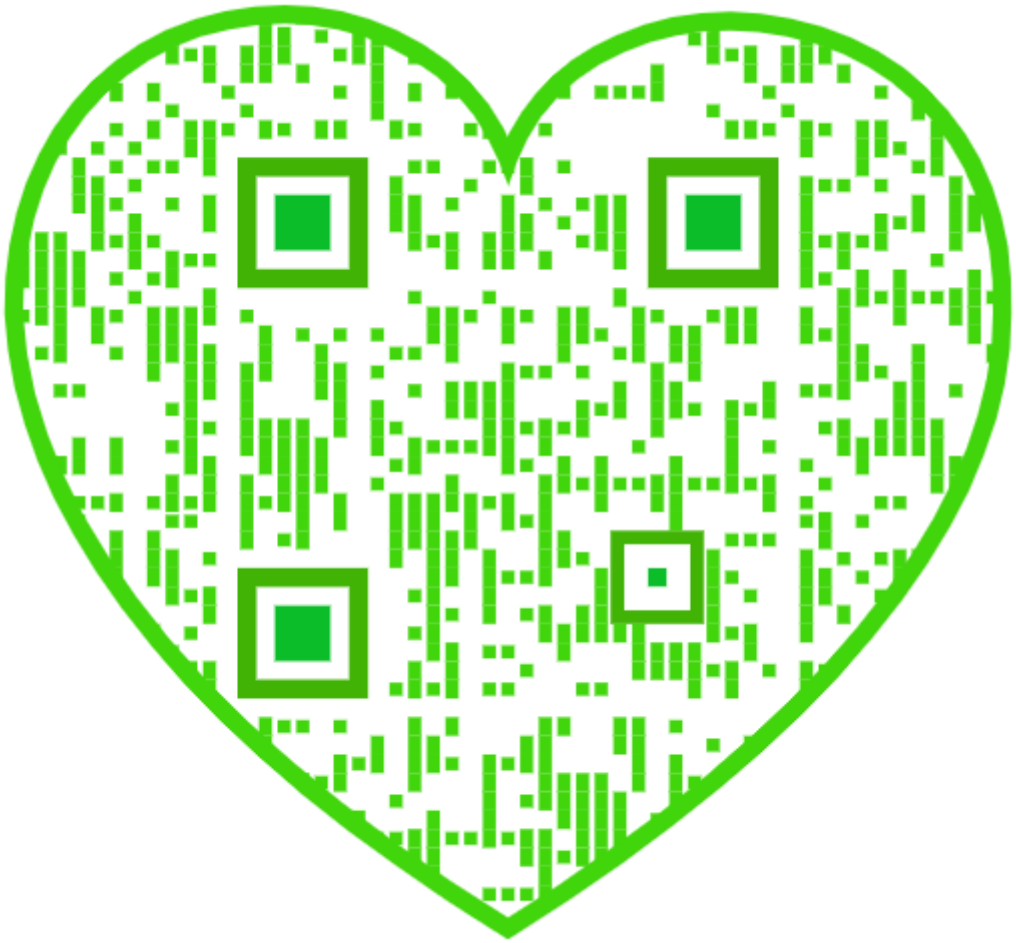

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TO

JOHN ELLIOTSON, M.D., Cantab., F.R.S.,

WHOSE LABOURS IN THE CAUSE OF

SCIENCE AND HUMANITY,

COMMAND THE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION

OF EVERY UNPREJUDICED INDIVIDUAL,

THESE FEW PAGES ARE

(BY PERMISSION)

DEDICATED,

BY HIS OBLIGED AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,

HENRY STORER, M.D.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE object of the following pages is to present to the Public a few plain Facts, with a selection of Cases, by which they may be enabled to form an opinion of the good already effected through Mesmerism.

When it is considered, that in the majority of cases, MESMERISM is only resorted to as a last resource,—frequently, without any belief in its powers by the patient—and almost always in direct opposition to the advice, feelings, and opinions of the ordinary medical attendants,—an attentive observer cannot but be struck and surprised to find, that so much should have been already accomplished.

To extend these benefits, should be the desire of all; this will be best accomplished by making known the subject, and, on all occasions, giving a fair and impartial consideration to the enquiry.

The present work must be considered as simply introductory; it does not pretend to originality, and those desirous of more extended information may consult with advantage any of the works referred to on the opposite page.

As a practical remedy in disease, Mesmerism ought to be confined to the members of the Profession; but owing to their present supineness, relief must be sought in many instances from those whose zeal and assiduity may have led them to its application.

Mankind are not to be deprived of the blessings of a potent remedy, because the Professors of the healing art choose to remain wilfully blind to the truth.

27, Brock Street, Royal Crescent,
Bath; May, 1845.

The following Works may be consulted as required:—

THE ZOIST; a Quarterly Journal of Phrenology and Mesmerism, and their application to Human Welfare.

NUMEROUS CASES OF SURGICAL OPERATIONS, without Pain, in the Mesmeric State; by John Elliotson, M.D., Cantab.

FACTS IN MESMERISM; with Reasons for a dispassionate Enquiry into it. 2nd edition, revised and enlarged. By the Rev. C. H. Townshend, Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

MESMERISM AND ITS OPPONENTS, with a History and Cases; including a Sermon—"MESMERISM, THE GIFT OF GOD"—in Reply to the Rev. Hugh Mc. Neile's charge of Satanic Agency. By the Rev. Mr. Sandby, Vicar of Flixton, Norfolk.

VITAL MAGNETISM; a Remedy. By the Rev. Thomas Pyne, Vicar of Hook, Surrey.

HUMAN MAGNETISM; its Claims to dispassionate Enquiry as a means for the Relief of Human Suffering. By. R. Newnham, Esq., Surgeon.

LETTERS ON MESMERISM, by Miss Harriet Martineau.

ISIS REVELATA; an Enquiry into the Origin, Progress, and present State of Animal Magnetism. 3rd edition. By J. Colquhoun, Esq.

TRIALS OF ANIMAL MAGNETISM on the Brute Creation. By Dr. Wilson, Middlesex Hospital.

CEREBRAL PHYSIOLOGY; with the Result of the Application of Animal Magnetism to the Phrenological Organs. By Dr. Engledue.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM; with Reports on Clairvoyance. By E. Lee, Esq.,

*Teste's Practical Manual of Animal Magnetism; containing an Exposition of the Methods employed in producing Magnetic Sleep, with its application to Disease. From the French, by D. Spillan, M.D.

Deleuze's Practical Instructions on Animal Magnetism. From the French.

The Critic. A talented weekly Paper, and Literary Journal of Science. This being the only Journal which contains the proceedings of the Society for the Investigation of Mesmerism, ought to be encouraged by every friend of the Science.

The Medical Times is the only impartial Medical Journal connected with this subject.

History, Phenomena, and Practice of Mesmerism. By W. Lang, Esq., Edinburgh.

Facts against Fallacies. By A. Kiste, Esq.

* To those desirous of knowing the extensive nature of these Enquiries on the Continent, I will mention that in French and German alone, there are between 50 and 60 established Works; a list of which, with any particulars, may be obtained at Balliere's, Foreign Bookseller, Regent Street, London.

ADDRESS.

Mesmerism, Animal or Vital Magnetism, Vital Electricity, or by what other name known, has of late engaged so much of both public and private attention, as to make it a subject of the deepest interest, whether considered in relation to the highly curious phenomena developed, or in its more important application as a remedy in disease. It is to this point, that I wish to confine myself, and shall therefore refer only to those topics which are more immediately connected with this enquiry; in doing this, however, it will be necessary briefly to mention those circumstances which have hitherto most retarded its progress. There cannot be a doubt, but that the greatest opposition to Mesmerism has arisen from the Medical Profession; let us therefore enquire upon what grounds their judgment has been formed. In the ordinary pursuits of life, we gene-

rally consider individuals most qualified to give an opinion, in proportion to the time and labour they may have bestowed on any particular subject. But in regard to Mesmerism, the very reverse of this has been allowed; for it is notorious, that as a body, medical men have refused to investigate,—they have condemned unheard,—some have declared that they would not believe the evidence of their own senses, and others have endeavoured to cast ridicule and contempt on every one who has had the ability, honesty, or courage, to carry out the enquiry for himself.

If proofs were wanting, I could give many; but let us take a well known example. What has been the treatment of Dr. Elliotson by the Profession? Is he not considered by his most obstinate opponents to be a man of science in the highest sense? and are not medical men more indebted to Dr. Elliotson than to any other living English physician, for the most important and practical additions to the philosophy and science of medicine? Let us refer to a few. Has not Dr. Elliotson advocated Phrenology,* in his lectures on the practice of medicine, his clinical lectures, and his writings for above 20 years?

* The London Phrenological Society was established chiefly by Dr. Elliotson 20 years since. At that time there was hardly more than one medical man in twenty a believer; now there is scarcely a well educated medical man who does not admit its general principles—many its minutiæ.

Did he not mainly contribute to the general use of the Stethoscope* in this country? Look at the many novel and interesting points of Physiology, recorded in his most elaborate work. By whom were quinine,* prussic acid, carbonate of iron, creosote, sulphate of copper, and other new remedies, first properly investigated? all—now established as practical means in their several applications—and though last, not least, follows Mesmerism, which, of all, promises to be the greatest boon to suffering humanity. Yet in the promotion of this, how unfairly—nay, cruelly—has he been treated; though, before very long, he will have the proud gratification of seeing Mesmerism, like all his previous labours, acknowledged, if not practised, by the very men who have hitherto denied and ridiculed.

The Profession† ought to have been doubly guarded in thus acting; for the public know full well, this has been their ordinary way of treating

* When the Stethoscope and quinine were introduced some years since, a now fashionable Court physician used to say, that the Stethoscope was just the thing for Elliotson to rave about, and that quinine would not last twelve months. This same individual, at the present time, never goes to a bed side without the one, and rarely passes a day without prescribing the other.

† In thus speaking of medical men I do not do so disrespectfully; I am only speaking the truth, which they must admit. I have an extensive London acquaintance with gentlemen of the highest standing; amongst whom, are many of my best friends.

every new discovery, and will ask, whether the same Profession, did not thus condemn the discoveries of Harvey, Hunter, and Jenner. Medical men must however, before long, investigate, or they will soon find their legitimate province invaded by those who have less title; those who believe, must soon declare themselves, and those who will not examine, cannot justly be entitled to give an opinion.

The public, however, are now so impressed by the good already accomplished by Mesmerism, that they will be too happy to have its benefits extended to all those cases which have hitherto baffled medical skill; and are there not too many diseases to which the present state of science is quite unequal? I ask the question fearlessly and honestly of medical men, of what avail or certainty are their remedies in many cases of Paralysis, Epilepsy, St. Vitus's Dance, Tic Douloureux, Hysteria, Mental, Spinal, and other affections of the Nervous System? Are they not the very opprobium of the healing art? and are they not too often, especially among the poorer classes, made the causes of exclusion from some of our public hospitals? If, then, there be a power, which will relieve and cure many of these extreme cases, is it not the duty of medical men to investigate that power, instead of denying its facts and condemning unheard?

Observe the example set us by our Continental

brethren. In France, the late Commission of 1831, composed of men of the highest scientific character, declared, that the facts of Mesmerism were undeniable, and entitled it to rank among the sciences; and in Paris, at the present time, every fourth medical man is a Mesmerist. Throughout the Continent, its reception has been equally gratifying. In Germany, it is studied and practised to a considerable extent; in Prussia, many physicians make use of it under the authority of government; in Berlin, the greatest success has attended its use; in Stockholm, degrees are granted in the University by an examination into its laws; in Russia, the Emperor appointed a Commission of medical men to enquire into it: this Commission pronounced it "a very important agent," and the first physician to the Emperor, with many others at Petersburgh and Moscow, have employed it successfully for years; in Denmark, physicians practise it under a royal ordinance, by a decree of the College of Health; in Holland, the first men adopt it. Let us hear also the opinions of two of the greatest of the Continental philosophers. La Place says, "that the testimony in favour of the truth of Mesmerism, coming with such uniformity from enlightened men of many nations, who had no interest to deceive, and possessed no possible means of collusion, was such, that, applying to it, his own principles and

formulas respecting human evidence, HE COULD NOT WITHHOLD HIS ASSENT FROM WHAT WAS SO STRONGLY SUPPORTED."

Cuvier also writes, that "it is no longer permitted us to doubt, that the proximity of two animated bodies in a certain relation, and with the help of certain motions, do produce a *real effect*, wholly independent of the imagination of either."

Let us also see, what has been done in our own country; though little, still, we have reason to rejoice, and, uniting the labours of all, we may say, without fear of contradiction, that Mesmerism can claim amongst its advocates and believers, the highest in rank, science, and literature. As names, especially in this country, do too frequently influence us; to prove my assertion, and to give encouragement to doubters, let us mention a few of those, who have expressed their belief in Mesmerism, many of whom practise it. In science, can any names claim a higher regard than La Place, Cuvier, Juissieu, Hufeland, Georget, Orfila, Cloquet, abroad; amongst ourselves, an Elliotson, Conolly, Abercrombie, Engledue, Ashburner, Mayo, Davey, Wilson, Sigmond, Arnott, Costello, and others; the chief of whom are Hospital physicians and surgeons. Besides these, in almost every city, town, and village, will be found private practitioners zealously pursuing the enquiry. In rank and station, we may

mention Prince Albert,* Lords Brougham and Stanhope, Lord Adare, the Earl of Westmoreland and the Duke of Marlborough, the Bishop of Norwich, Colonel Gurwood, Sir Thomas Wiltshire, Captain James, Sir Wm. Molesworth, Sir Wm. Hamilton, &c. In the literary world, and arts, will be found Miss Martineau, Miss Mitford, and Miss Ann Savage, Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer, Charles Dickens, Mr. Macready, Mr. Colquhoun, Mr. Coleridge, &c. In the legal profession we have barristers of high standing; amongt others Basil Montague. In the Church we have dignitaries of the highest order; and three excellent Works on Mesmerism have been lately written by Clergymen, of good standing and attainments: indeed, the Clergy have done much, and would do more, were it not, that there appears to be an opinion abroad, that Mesmerism has an irreligious or Satanic agency. This belief has originated chiefly from a Sermon, said to have been preached by the Rev. Hugh Mc. Neile. He has partly disavowed the production, but not entirely; and so far, renders himself responsible for those, who choose only to act and think through the prejudices of others.

* Prince Albert stated before a large party at the Palace, only a month ago, "That the medical men of this country were conducting themselves in a very improper manner, by refusing to investigate the facts presented to them by the science of Mesmerism."

Yet on this point, can any objection be more irreligious or uncharitable? We will see. It is the universal belief of every well regulated mind, and ought certainly to be that of every Christian, that whatever has been created, or exists, is for a wise and benevolent purpose. It is very true, that we do not always perceive the application, but that does not destroy the power, and ought not to lessen the value.

Now, when we find Mesmerism being applied to the relief of the most hopeless of cases and sufferers, and when good is effected, this must naturally dispose the mind to contemplate in a still higher degree, the additional blessing received, and, as a consequence, gratitude from the receiver—to the Giver of all Good. Such benefits rather tend to convert an unbeliever, and confirm a Christian.

Several objectors will be answered by the record of cases given; but there are others, who, after actually seeing certain benefits derived, then assume the results to be merely the efforts of nature, the force of imagination, or even imposition. Now, if the efforts of nature set in, after all other means have been tried in vain, and the good only appears to follow, from the time Mesmerism has been commenced, why not accord to it this slight credit? and as regards the imagination, if several of the most fearful and painful operations—such as the

amputation of limbs, the removal of large portions of the jaw, the opening of tumours, and the extraction of teeth, now, without number; if these, and many more, can be effected without pain, and even through the imagination, then, it becomes the absolute duty of the College of Physicians to admit this agent at once into the number of their remedies.

On the prejudices of medical men, Miss Martineau has most tritely remarked in her interesting letters,—"How can the Profession hold its dominion over minds, however backed by law, and the opinion of the educated, when the vulgar see and know that limbs are removed without pain, in opposition to the will of doctors, and in spite of their denial of the facts? What avails the decision of a whole College of Surgeons, that such a thing could not be, when a whole town full of people know that it was; which must succumb,—*the learned body or the fact?*"

There is no excuse for medical men not making the enquiry for themselves, inasmuch as the appeal is simply to nature, and is within the reach of every one,—and when men are found, who will not investigate, and prefer condemning unheard, let them, however high their assumed character or station, consider how just is the following, from the late Mr. Chevenix, who on this very subject was so able an advocate:—"Would it disgrace

the greatest man whom England has ever produced, to attempt an experiment or two upon a doctrine which Hufeland, Juissieu, Cuvier, Ampére, and La Place believed? nay, would it not disgrace him more to condemn, without knowing any thing about, what such men knew and believed? Is supercilious ignorance the weapon with which Bacon would have repelled a new branch of knowledge, however extraordinary it might have appeared to him? surely, WHAT GREAT MEN BELIEVE, ORDINARY MEN MAY TRY."

Mr. Chevenix further observes—"In the whole domain of human arguments, no art or science rests upon experiments more numerous, more positive, or more easily ascertained; and, to him, and before long, the opinion must be universal, the most extraordinary event in the whole history of human science is, THAT MESMERISM EVER COULD BE DOUBTED."*

Now, let it be clearly understood, that these opinions are not those of a mere book worm, or crude theorist; for, on referring to his writings, many of which appeared in the Philosophical Transactions, it will be seen, that he personally operated on the large number of 448 individuals, 168 of these in the short space of a few months. His trials were made on all ages, sexes, and stations; and

* See Medical and Physical Journal for 1829.

he reports, that positive effects were produced on the majority, several were cured of very distressing diseases, and many were much relieved,—when, at last, an acute disease suddenly deprived science and humanity of one of her brightest ornaments. His experiments were strictly scientific—his object philanthropic; and it was to the labours chiefly of Mr. Chevenix, that the public are mainly indebted, for his mantle falling on the equally able and talented Dr. Elliotson.

Surely, with this weight of evidence in our favour, it is not expecting too much, that, when opponents to Mesmerism arise, they at least, should bring facts against facts, well knowing, as they ought, that one real fact, is worth twenty vague opinions.

As a summary, it may be said, that if opinions, or judgments, founded on our prejudices, our superstitions, or our abuses of things, were once admitted, what would have become of the greatest discoveries ever made, or the greatest benefits ever conferred?

Vaccination was considered Anti-Christ, and as such, denounced from the pulpit; the eminent French surgeon, Parè, was hooted and hissed, because he introduced the ligature to arteries, as a substitute for boiling pitch. In the application of medicines to disease, we are well aware, that our most valued remedies in relieving pain, are those,

which, by an over dose, would destroy life. Look at Chemistry, and one of its applications—steam. We wondered, when the first steam vessel was proposed; and ridiculed, when told we might by the same power, travel by land 30 miles in the hour; but even this was in its infancy, since, we now double that speed, and by the electric telegraph, a correspondence is maintained at the distance of hundreds of miles, in as many seconds of time. If matter cannot be limited, why should mind—community of thought and feeling? Phreno-Mesmerism, and the still higher condition, Clairvoyance, are the manifestations of the nervous system, proceeding from that wonderful source, the Brain, a glimmering of whose functions we are only just beginning to perceive.

Newton's humility of mind into enquiries of this nature affords us another beautiful example. Dr. Chalmers, in illustrating this point in his character, says, "that he wanted no other recommendation for any one article of science than the recommendation of truth: with this, he would open to it all the avenues of his understanding, though authority might scowl upon it; and taste be disgusted by it; and fashion be ashamed of it; and all the beauteous speculation of former days, cruelly broken up by the announcement of the better philosophy; and scattered like the fragments of an aerial vision, over

which the past generations of the world had been slumbering their profound and pleasing reveries."

To those who will not believe in Mesmerism until we can explain causes, we refer to a paragraph from the Rev. Mr. Sandby's excellent work, and with which I shall now conclude:—

"Gravitation is perhaps of all powers the most universal; and the best understood; but who can explain this? We see the stone fall to the ground, and the smoke rise above; the storm rushes by, and the mountain torrent dashes over the precipice into the gulf below. But of the *cause*, of all these various and apparently opposite effects, we know nothing—but that the power is simple and uniform; it is named attraction—a sympathy between bodies, but which is no explanation.

"It is the same with the phenomena of animal life, which we perceive through the action of Mesmerism, the results of which are uniform under similar conditions, but vary with all the changes observable in the living body; and so far as we are acquainted with these changes, can we calculate upon the result of mesmeric action; and it is the same with the effects which follow in the course of every other power by which the living body is influenced. The laws of action are but the recognised material conditions under which any effects take place.

"Could we even perceive a medium of communication between acting bodies, as the wire which conveys electricity, or the air which communicates all the exquisite harmonies of sound to the sensitive nerve,—or really witness a visible tangible fluid passing out from one body to another,—the difficulty and the mystery would be the same, for a medium of communication is not the *cause* of the influence which it communicates. Who can explain what is light or heat?

"On all matters then, on which we are ignorant we should suspend our judgment; for experience alone can lead to knowledge, and the wisest of men have ever been the most humble after truth, and the most careful in giving judgment. 'For though all knowledge,' says Lord Bacon, 'is valuable and connected, the knowledge of man to man is the most important, and ought to be the foundation of every system.' Let us then, with pure humility, and with an earnest spirit, seek to know ourselves, thanking Providence for what has been made known to us, and not, in the pride of intellect, presumptuously refuse what is presented to us, because we cannot comprehend it, or through ignorance ascribe its influence to any but its legitimate source—the Fountain of all Good."

SELECTION OF CASES.

In recording the following Cases, I have selected those, which appear to have the greatest amount of importance, in reference to the actual disturbed conditions, previous to *Mesmerism* being adopted, and to the general authentic character of the reports. I have also preferred those cases to which the names of parties are affixed, and otherwise well attested.

In the cases taken from the Zoist,* it must be understood, that I have selected only one or two, as illustrating the particular diseases treated of, there are numerous similar cases, reported by a variety of medical men in different parts of the country. My difficulty has been in the selection from such a variety, as there are many others

* The Zoist is a quarterly journal devoted to Phrenology and Mesmerism; it contains a great number of the worst description of cases, successfully cured by Mesmerism. This work is indispensable to every medical man, and will be found most interesting to the general reader.

equally striking, but which cannot be abridged without destroying their value.

I have purposely omitted any detailed reference to my own experience, though I will just add, that I have succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations, in curing cases of St. Vitus's Dance, violent Hysteria, Tic Douloureux, and other nervous complaints, after having failed in doing so by all the ordinary means of routine practice. I have also been requested by one or two parties not to report their cases, chiefly owing to the local prejudices of the Profession. Time, I hope, will soon remedy these drawbacks, when I shall be enabled to give the results of several interesting cases, some of them still under treatment and progressing favourably.

Case of Spinal Affection, of long standing.

Captain Anderson, of the Royal Marines, who has been a most extensive mesmeriser, was the operator on this occasion. Mrs. Raymond, a lady residing at Chelmsford, had suffered for nine years from a spinal complaint, being confined to her sofa,

and unable to be moved day and night; she had also lost the use of her voice. Her sufferings were dreadful. Blisters, caustic issues, leeches, setons, medicines of all descriptions, were tried in succession, without any substantial good. These are her own words: "During the nine years I was unable to be moved from my sofa night or day, I was never free from pain; sometimes the agony was indescribable: the last three years I have been entirely speechless. I had given up all hope of recovery, and almost prayed for death. At the very time that I had resigned myself to my fate, and begged that my sufferings might soon be ended, God, in his great mercy, made me acquainted with Captain Anderson, who offered to try the effect of mesmerism. *I laughed at the idea;* but from his account of the cures he had performed, I complied, being anxious to grasp at anything which would do me good. Without following out the details, this is the result. I am now able to walk out daily alone and unassisted. I am regaining my speech; and I am free from pain, sleep soundly, and take no medicine, and am now seldom mesmerised." Well may this excellent lady, who is well known and much respected, when comparing "her past sufferings with her present happiness," say that she "feels thankful to God and grateful to Captain Anderson."

Case of Uterine Disease, with general Nervous Derangement.

For the following interesting case, I am indebted to Mr. Vernon, of the Institute of Mesmerism, London; a gentleman, whose lectures and demonstrations have done much towards diffusing the knowledge of the science:—

"Sir,—At Mr. Vernon's request, I send you some account of the good resulting from the application of mesmerism in my own case, after an illness of 5 years. I have suffered from an internal complaint of a very painful and aggravated nature, partly originating from an adverse circumstance at the birth of an only child. I experienced little or no relief from surgical aid during the period I have mentioned. A detailed account of the many years during which my health has slowly but surely declined, would be unnecessary; I will but briefly explain my state when forced to apply to mesmerism for relief, as my last resource. I unfortunately met with a severe accident in the beginning of last March, in consequence of which my complaint was so much aggravated, that in the course of a few weeks I was entirely confined to the sofa. I was attended by Mr. R. Tayler, of 27, Old Steine,

Brighton, and Dr. G. Hall, 14, Old Steine. Mr. Tayler's reputation is too high in Brighton for me to doubt that his treatment of me was otherwise than judicious. I believe that all was done for me that surgical skill could do, notwithstanding which, each week, almost each day, saw me worse, until I was unable to walk, or even move, without the greatest pain. From June last until the end of November, I was leeched every fourth day, yet I experienced little or no relief from this, or any other treatment; my sufferings were incessant and agonizing. I was only enabled to bear them by frequent and large doses of morphine and other sedatives, which, together with the pain, produced an equally distressing effect on the mind. The events of that period are too indistinct and too painful for me to recall; you will understand the probable mental condition of one whose physical strength was exhausted, and nerves rendered weak and irritable by long continued suffering, and the remedies taken to relieve them. My mother was frequently told by Mr. Tayler '*that he knew not what to do for me;* that I must trust to time and to the advantages which I derived from my age' (25). *This declaration was repeated only two days before I was mesmerised,* when I was confined to my bed, and felt my strength failing rapidly, so that I could not endure much longer. I freely confess

that had I not been so hopeless of relief, I *would not* have applied to mesmerism from the fact of the prejudice and ridicule attending it. I will only premise that I believed in the *power*, but I did *not* believe the possibility of its efficacy in my case.

"On the evening of the 4th of December, 1844, Mr. Vernon mesmerised me. When he arrived, I was in extreme pain, and in a state of excessive irritability and restlessness, so that I did not believe it possible for me to lie still to allow Mr. V. to make the attempt; notwithstanding which, after what appeared to me to be a very short time, I felt that the pains moderated, and a sensation of ease and freedom from restlessness steal over me, which no opiates could ever induce. I soon lost all consciousness, and on waking, was almost free from pain. That night I was far calmer than I had been for many months, although the pains returned. Mr. Vernon continued to mesmerise me twice a day, with one or two exceptions; at the end of a week I found myself enjoying several hours quiet and refreshing sleep at nights. After a fortnight's mesmerising, I discontinued the opiates which I had regularly taken for many months, and was able to walk about the room without much inconvenience; and at the end of three weeks I found sleep, appetite, and strength of body and mind restored to a degree which astonished no one so much as myself.

My mother, by whose advice and persuasion I first determined to try mesmerism, removed with me to London in order to perfect my cure, which object has been most happily and decidedly accomplished; for I am enabled to employ and exert myself as well as I did 6 years ago, and can take out-door exercise without fatigue or inconvenience, as a proof of which, I walked 3 miles on Friday last, with perfect comfort to myself. Should you, or any other medical man, wish for any more detailed account of my illness and cure, or of my mesmeric state, I must refer you to Mr. Vernon, who, I am sure, will be happy to reply to any enquiries. Anything in my power to further so good and powerful a cause as mesmerism will be gladly complied with. I trust to see and hear of many who will seek and obtain relief as I have done; and then, that they will not be deterred by any consideration in making similar statements to that of,

"Yours obediently,

"H. M. M.

"I should prefer your merely placing my initials in publishing this statement; but I willingly authorize you to give my name and address to those who are really interested in mesmerism, or where you may think it advisable. "H. M. M."

"To Dr. Storer, Bath."

Case of Nervous Suffering, leaving the patient Dumb.

The following case, from the Zoist, of extreme bodily and mental suffering, leaving the patient *Dumb*, until mesmerism was applied, deserves to be made known; the facts were thus recorded in the "North Devon Journal":—

"Many of our readers will be gratified to know, that thanks were publicly returned in the Parish Church of Ilfracombe, on Sunday last, for the signal mercy of God towards the girl, Catherine Brown, in her restoration of speech by mesmerism, through the instrumentality of Mr. Davey, who was lecturing here. I give now the substance of the narrative.

"The girl is in her 15th year, her name Catharine Brown; and is the daughter of a mechanic, living at Compass hill, Ilfracombe. Her mother states that she was taken alarmingly ill in the mouth of October, 1841; her complaint lying in her head, side, and stomach. At this time, she presented a most deplorable picture of human wretchedness and suffering, and her screams, which were terrific, could be heard at a very considerable distance. She could never be left for a moment, as, during the absence of the attendants, she would beat her head against

a wall most unmercifully, so as to leave wounds as well as bruises; she was likewise often convulsed, during which paroxysms, it was as much as two could do to hold her. Many medical gentlemen of the town visited her, and gave her medicine; in fact, she was an object of general charity, and, I believe, there was not even an occasional medical visitor in the town who did not prescribe for her.

"After a lengthened period of duration and suffering, the violence of her complaint greatly subsided, but *left her dumb!* From that period up to the time of being first mesmerised, she had never spoken a single syllable, although bribes had been offered her in order to induce her to try and do so. She still continued the object of charitable visits from the town, among whom was — Lee, esq., a magistrate, who offered her money to pronounce his name; but even this monosyllable she was unable to articulate.

"After being mesmerised three times, and as soon as consciousness was wholly destroyed, she began to speak; but at first her speech was slow, and she dwelt on the first letter of the word just as those persons do who have an impediment in their speech, commonly known as *stammering:* thus, on pronouncing the word cat, she dwelt on the c, as c-c-c-at; dog, d-d-d-og, &c. &c.; and in a similar manner was her pronunciation of other monosylla-

bles. She was then asked her name, when, dwelling on each syllable, she replied Cath-e-rine Brown.

"From this it was evident that her speech was improving, and after a further trial elicited a quick reply—'Catherine Brown.' After a short time she was demesmerised, and those who were present will not soon forget the countenance of the patient, when, rising from her chair, she ran towards a little girl in the room, crying out in joyous accents 'Oh, Mary Ann, I can speak again now!' A fear, I believe was entertained, lest the faculty of speech would again leave her on being demesmerised; but the fear was groundless, and wholly dissipated, on hearing her thus address her little friend. The delight of the mother may be more easily imagined than described, when she found her daughter able to speak, *after being dumb for the space of two years and a half.*"

Cure of Deafness of long standing.

A case of deafness, of many years standing, has been lately cured by the Messrs. Saunders,* of this

* Mr. Saunders, the Barrister, and his brother, have employed Mesmerism in several cases with great success, and deserve thanks for their disinterested zeal in the cause.

city. Having seen the case several times, I am enabled to bear witness to the success; the young woman has also been visited by many residents in this vicinity.

"Mary Ann Parsons, aged 24, residing at Combe Down, near Bath, has been afflicted from her early youth with deafness. Her mother having been relieved of rheumatism by Mesmerism, brought her daughter for the purpose of being mesmerised for her deafness. In the mesmeric trance, she prescribed the further process to be adopted for her recovery, and requested us to breathe in each ear a certain number of times. Within the last month we have mesmerised her fifteen or sixteen times, and her deafness is entirely removed. She at last became so susceptible, that two or three passes sufficed to send her off into the deepest coma. Before mesmerism, she could not hear the ticking of a watch when close to her ears; now, she can hear a loud ticking clock at the distance of a second room; and continues to this period quite well."—April, 1845.

Neuralgic Affection, with Epileptic Fits.

The following interesting case is abridged from the Rev. Mr. Sandby's work; Mr. Basil Montague

was the proposer of mesmerism, and Mr. Atkinson, of London, was the kind and persevering operator:

"Ann Vials is the daughter of Samuel Vials, of the Abbey parish in St. Albans, who formerly drove the mail cart from thence to Watford. For a short time this poor girl gained her livelihood by working in a silk factory: from the scrofulous habit of her constitution, and being subject to epileptic fits, she was not always equal to full employment; and, in 1837, when she was only sixteen years of age, she was compelled to give up work altogether, to go home and nurse a sick mother, who was also suffering from a scrofulous affection, under which she gradually sunk. The mother's disease had taken strong hold of the daughter, for the overwrought exertions of a twelvemonth had now too clearly brought out the hereditary taint. Anne Vials, in fact, required a nurse for herself; for not only was the general state of her health broken down, but the left arm, which, for three or four years had been giving her much pain and uneasiness, became now in so diseased a condition as totally to deprive her of its use. She was placed under the care of several medical men in succession: the best attendance in St. Albans was provided for her: but the arm every day became more and more painful. Through the kindness of some charitable

friends, she was now admitted into different hospitals one after the other. She was first removed to Hemel Hempstead Infirmary; thence to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, where she remained nine months; thence to St. Thomas's, in the Borough; and thence to Hemel Hempstead again,—in none of which places did she obtain any effectual benefit. The state of her health at length became so serious, that to save her life, some decisive measures were necessary; and she was taken up to London again, to Guy's Hospital, where her arm was amputated by Mr. Morgan, the 22d of March, 1841. At the end of three months, when the wound was healed, she returned back to St. Albans. After she had been at home some little time, a violent convulsive action commenced in the stump. This movement became rapidly worse and worse; in fact, the stump moved up and down, night and day, unceasingly, and much quicker, to use her own expression, than she herself could move the other arm. Her sufferings became intense, and her general health was affected in proportion. She was now removed backwards and forwards, as before, to the different hospitals, but without any relief. At the Infirmary in Hemel Hempstead, they actually strapped the arm down with the hope of lessening the movement; but the confinement made it, if possible, worse, and they were compelled to un-

loose it. She was at length carried to St. George's Hospital: here she remained three months, her health gradually getting worse and worse, and the epileptic fits, from which she had been suffering for a twelvemonth, increasing in violence and duration; when, with the only hope of saving her life, a proposition was mooted of taking the stump out of the socket. My readers may judge, by this simple fact, of the desperate state to which this poor girl had now arrived; for with her shattered health, it could hardly be expected that she should survive, even for a short time, so serious an operation. At this critical juncture, mesmerism was suggested by her kind friend Mr. Basil Montague; he mentioned the case to Mr. Atkinson, whose humane and scientific character can be well attested.

"In spite of the feeling against mesmerism, and the almost hopeless state of the patient, he at once, on his own responsibility, undertook the case; and seeing that it would require for months the most unremitting attention, he procured a nurse from St. George's Hospital, and had the poor girl removed to his own house. It was in May, 1842, about fourteen months after the amputation, that Anne Vials quitted the hospital to make trial of mesmerism; and this is Mr. Atkinson's description of the state in which he found her:—'She had sometimes three or four fits in a day, of a most violent nature,

which continued for more than an hour; the stump moved up and down without cessation,—not a merely nervous twitching, but violently up and down. She suffered continuous excruciating pain in the head and back; and at the end of the stump too, the pain was most agonising. She had pain too in all her limbs and joints, particularly in the elbow of the remaining arm, just as she had before amputation in the other. Masses of sores were constantly breaking out in different parts of the body; palpitations at the heart, pains in the chest, suspensions of the functions of nature, and a spitting of large quantities of blood, accompanied by solid matter, were some of the other symptoms. In short, a more terrible complication of evils have seldom been united in one sufferer.' At the first few sittings the epileptic fits were brought on, as if by the mesmeric effect; but this prevented their recurrence in their ordinary way. At the fourth or fifth séance the deep sleep, or trance, was superinduced, *when the action of the stump suddenly stopped*, and from that moment it never moved in that way again; the fits too ceased; the pains in the back of her head were almost instantly relieved; and a gradual improvement in her general health set in. Upon the wonderful results of the mesmeric treatment in this case, I shall make little comment; my readers can judge for themselves, when they

have examined the actual facts of her case. Her sufferings, the amputation, the movement of the stump, and the other attendant evils are known to numbers—to medical men in St. Alban's, and to the surgeons and nurses at the hospitals; and it is also known, that all the remedies suggested for her benefit were fruitless: the best surgical advice was of no avail; but the fifth day, after the application of mesmerism, the stump ceased to move, and the other fearful symptoms of the case began to disappear! Mesmerism was perseveringly continued; when intermitted at one period, she relapsed. Mesmerism was renewed, and in her case, shewed all the higher manifestations of its powers; when she was finally restored to perfect health—a blessing to herself, and the utmost gratification to those most interested in her welfare."

Case of Spasmodic Asthma of long standing.

The following case was treated by Mr. Kiste, a gentleman who has devoted much attention to the subject, and published an interesting pamphlet under the title of "Facts against Fallacies." This case is attested by the Rev. Mr. Holdsworth, who is one of the Prebends of Exeter, and Vicar of

Brixham in the same diocese; this gentleman, in a published letter, authorises Mr. Kiste to add his notes.

The patient, Elizabeth Spurdens, is wife of the footman in Mr. Holdsworth's family, a female above the middle age of life, whose sufferings for many years have been intense, and by the simple application of mesmerism has been restored to perfect health. Previously, she had been under the care of several medical men in her locality, who pronounced her case incurable, and of the worst possible character. The Rev. Mr. Holdsworth thus writes to Mr. Kiste, the operator:—

"According to your wish I send you a copy of the notes taken at the time when you favoured us with your company and mesmerised the wife of my footman—an operation which so far has been of most essential service to her. The asthma under which she has so long suffered was of a most distressing character; so much so, that her neighbour who inhabits a part of the house, I am informed, was afraid to remain with her alone in the house, unless her husband or some friend of her's was there also, so frightful was her appearance when under the attack. You know already that for six weeks after she was put under mesmeric influence she had no attack; then a slight one, brought on, she says, by her own imprudence, and from that

time, now six weeks more, she has had no return of her complaint; her general health is improved, and she is gaining more solid flesh. I hope that in time the beneficial effects arising from mesmerism will be better understood and better appreciated. Nothing can be more unphilosophical than the manner in which the faculty and others treat this subject, as well as the prejudices that have been evinced, instead of the patient investigation, which such a subject requires.

"If doubt leads us to neglect investigation and prejudice prevents enquiry, how is knowledge in any new science or subject to be acquired?

"Brixham Vicarage, Feb. 5, 1841."

"This account is written to shew the beneficial effects arising from mesmerism (whatever it might be) and to describe some of the phenomena that occurred in the presence of the writer and fourteen members of his family.

"It was in consequence of her distressing state being told to Mr. Kiste, that he said, he thought she might be benefitted by mesmerism, and that if she liked, he would give up some days during his stay to try its effects."

The detail of each day's mesmerising, though very interesting, is too long for insertion; it concludes with a letter from the patient herself, expressing grateful thanks for the relief obtained;

and Mr. Kiste concludes the case with the following remarks, in a letter to Dr. Elliotson:—

"It should here be mentioned, that about six weeks after the time of her mesmeric slumbers, she caught cold and the symptoms of her disease made their appearance, but her altered constitution evidently did not seem to admit of any intrusion of her former complaint; in a letter to me respecting it she says,—'It came on in the morning, but I did not get ill until between 11 and 12 in the forenoon; in the evening there were preparations made as usual, and a person sent for, to stop the night, but to my great surprise and to the utter astonishment of all, I got better before night, and did not require any assistance during the night, but slept soundly, and had but one spasm during the day; before now in that time, I may have had a dozen.' About three weeks after this I saw her and mesmerised her for several days, during which time the faculty of clairvoyance was often spontaneously developed. A year has now elapsed, and she has uniformly enjoyed her health. When seeing her lately, she said to me in her simplicity, that frequently when sitting by herself she would look back to former years and fancy she could not be the same person.

"A fact worthy of being stated for the information of those opponents who attribute all mesmeric phenomena and the cure of diseases to the influence of

imagination, is, that this patient from beginning to end manifested a most extraordinary degree of scepticism; she never would believe that she had been to sleep; and when aware of her improved state of health, she constantly imagined she would have a return of her illness; and I strongly believe that, even at this monent, she is not free from that apprehension. But considering the time, and her having had some severe colds, which generally brought on violent attacks, reason and facts combine to decide in favour of the cure being a perfect one; and I have only to add, had this been the only case in which I have been able to accomplish a cure, I should consider myself amply rewarded for the leisure hours I have bestowed in the cultivation of mesmerism."

Case of Neuralgia, or painful Nervous Affection of the Heart, of many years standing.

"Mr. Kiste has also presented to us the history of a very interesting case, the Hon. Mrs. Hare. This lady has related her case in a very clear and instructive manner, confining herself to a simple statement of facts, which every body can understand. For *eighteen* years she suffered from neuralgia of the heart, and was successively under the care of

Dr. Warren, Sir C. Bell, Mr. Abernethy, Dr. Maton, and Dr. Elliotson; but the various remedies which were suggested did not in the least relieve her. At this period, 1834, she was taking *forty* grains of opium a day. Her sufferings continued unalleviated till the end of last year, 1844, when she was fortunately introduced to Mr. Kiste.

"The Lady writes—'On the 16th of Sept. last, we had some friends to dinner, amongst whom was Mr. Kiste, who is an amateur mesmerist, and has been successful in curing diseases which had baffled the skill of medical men. He expressed a wish to try his power; but as our friend Mr. B., Mons. Lafontaine, and Dr. Ashburner had failed to produce the sleep, I sat down with the idea that I could not be affected by mesmerism; he sat before me earnestly and steadily gazing in my eyes. In a few minutes I felt a most unusual tranquillity of mind; the objects in the room seemed to lose their outline; and the last thing I remember having seen were my mesmeriser's eyes. I was afterwards told, that in eight minutes I sank down in the arm-chair, and that Mr. K. pronounced me to be in what is called mesmeric somnambulism, a peculiar state of the nervous system. After nearly two hours' sleep, Mr. K. awoke me, and I felt tranquil, but very sleepy.

"'That night, for the first time after having had paroxysms every night for three weeks previously,

I was not only free from an attack, but slept soundly till late in the morning, when I awoke quite refreshed.

"'Since that day, Sept. 17, I have been entirely free from these attacks, with the exception of having several times felt the symptoms when I had taken cold, or when Mr. K. was not with us; but it has not come to anything more than a little faintness. *I know nothing of my former agonies except by memory.* My general constitution has changed. I am much thinner; and in the course of three months I have twice had occasion to have my dresses much diminished, and I am now able to walk five or six miles without the least fatigue.

"'Having been for nearly two months free from my usual sufferings, Mr. Kiste proposed to me to diminish my doses. Although I thought this an impossibility, I made the trial, when I found I did not as formerly feel the loss. I continued by degrees to lessen the quantity, and from having at that time been in the habit of taking from sixty-six to upwards of eighty-six grains daily, I have now reduced it to considerably less than thirty, and I am going on to diminish the quantity.

"'I was a dreadful sufferer for many years. I now am free from that suffering, and in the enjoyment of health and comfort. Whereas I was ill! I am now well!

"'In thus coming forward, I am fully aware that I expose myself to the ridicule of small minds and the observations of the malevolent; to both I am perfectly indifferent.'"

Case of severe Nervous Disease.

Treated by Mr. CHARLES CHILDS.

"In the early part of August last I was requested to try the effect of mesmeric treatment on a lady, whose case was described to me by her mother as most deplorable, and one in which every other mode of treatment had been tried and found unavailing.

"She was the daughter of a medical gentleman, named Larke, residing and practising near Norwich. I ascertained that he utterly disbelieved in mesmerism as a reality; that the lady and her family knew nothing more than the common reports on the subject, and had no particular expectation of benefit from its employment; but that they proposed to try the experiment as they would almost any other harmless remedy where the suffering was so intense, and the resources of the medical art afforded no relief.

"I was informed that the young lady had for

above two years been entirely out of health, suffering acute and capricious pains in the head, teeth and face, after the slightest exposure to cold, and pains at the pit of the stomach after every meal: that about six months previously she had had an attack of brain fever: that from defective capillary circulation she was always shivering from cold, and her countenance had assumed a perfectly exsanguineous aspect: that she suffered so much depression of spirits as rendered life a burden: and that for the last fourteen weeks she had been attacked every night by a pain extending over the right side of the head down to the shoulder, lasting for about five hours, and so acute as nearly to deprive her of reason.

"Whatever the best medical skill could suggest had been perseveringly adopted. Relief had been sought not merely from change of air, diet, occupation, and topical applications, but from alteratives: yet up to the day on which I saw her, the disease had steadily persisted, and even increased in violence.

"The whole of Miss Larke's knowledge on the subject amounted to this only,—that people were reported to be sent to sleep, and in some unaccountable way to be cured, by mesmerism. In order therefore to place her mind in a neutral state, I withheld all information, assuring her I could form no opinion whether she would derive any benefit,

and if she did, it was by no means a necessary condition that she should sleep. She was thus, as she has since assured me, completely ignorant what would be the mode of treatment, or what result might be expected, and the imagination therefore could have no share in producing the result.

"The *physical effect* was most decided, and almost instantaneous. After the first sleep, the lady experienced a sense of warmth which she had not felt for months,—the first night, the agonising pain, which had never once intermitted for fourteen weeks, wholly ceased, or was superseded by only a slight uneasiness, continuing but five minutes instead of five hours. After two days this disappeared—and to the present time no sign of it has ever returned. The general improvement of her health is manifested by every indication of bodily and mental vigour—at the end of six weeks the dull heavy languor of long disease had given place to the natural buoyancy of youth,—a colourless, lack-lustre complexion was replaced by the genuine hue of health,—the hair, which had nearly all fallen off, not only grew rapidly in length, but sprang up thickly over the whole head,—the appetite became perfectly good and the digestion complete,—I may not say how much the lady gained in weight. The case presented a complete transformation from disease to health, and the whole character and ap-

pearance were so entirely changed, that, on returning home, an acquaintance, who had known her for years, spent several hours in her company, at her father's house, without recognizing her, but supposing she was a visitor in the family."

The father of the young lady, a medical man, honourably bears witness to the powers of Mesmerism; the following are his concluding remarks in a letter to Mr. Childs:—

"I am now most happy to state that her recovery is complete—that she enjoys perfect health and equanimity of spirits, and is everything I could wish her to be. This blessing I attribute to you, and I think I should be wanting in every proper feeling, if I hesitated to withhold my testimony to the case."

"Brooke, Norfolk, March 13, 1845."

Miss Martineau and her Traducers.

It was my intention to have noticed several circumstances connected with Miss Martineau's case, but I find I have been so ably anticipated by an article in the last number of the Zoist, that I shall condense from that, as much as my pages will allow; the medical particulars are in Latin, which I do not

think it necessary to insert, as a reference can be made to the original.

"How extraordinary are the changes in the world of thought! The subject which the critic a few months since would not condescend to notice, has been elevated to a commanding position,—it is the topic with which the daily papers and the weekly periodicals are filled; in fact, all classes are moved as by one common consent, and mesmerism from the palace to the smallest town in the united kingdom, is the scientific question absorbing public attention. Even Mr. Wakley, who impudently declared that he had exposed the 'humbug' of mesmerism, is obliged to yield to the pressure from without, and to enable him 'to wheel about' in a becoming manner, has purchased the cerebral property of a Dr. Radcliffe Hall. We hope that the public voice will wring from Mr. Wakley some expression of regret that he should have been so unfaithful to literature and science, as to have made his journal the instrument for disseminating such gross slanders and such unfounded statements. Dr. Radcliffe Hall will gain great notoriety, for he stands accused of having falsified historical facts, and of garbling to serve his own purpose important documents,—he has hired himself to Mr. Wakley, and proved to the world that he is not possessed of

sufficient accuracy to cause him to quote fairly the documents of a past age, or chronicle the facts of the present.

"The immediate cause of all this activity is the publication of the case of Miss Martineau, who, after *five* years of incessant suffering and confinement to her couch, is now well; and we, knowing the particulars from the first day of her illness to the last day of her continuance of pills and mixtures, and from this period onwards day by day, during the mesmeric treatment, as medical men, unhesitatingly assert, that this cure has been accomplished by the aid of mesmerism *alone*. But Miss M. is not the first person cured by this plan of treatment. *Hundreds and thousands* have received health and strength—have been raised from the couch of suffering and restored to their friends and society—have recognized the power by means of which they have been healed, and promulgated again and again their thanks; but their tale has not been heeded, or, if listened to for a moment, it was soon forgotten, and they were ranked in the same category with the nervous, the visionary, or the insane. It is then in a great measure to the publication of Miss M.'s case that this sudden change is to be attributed. From every quarter we hear of extraordinary cures. We understand that even medical men, some of them belonging to the Lon-

don phalanx of opponents, are daily requesting from Dr. Elliotson interviews for themselves or their friends. Yes, the medical butterflies are again beginning to be attracted towards that centre, which on former occasions afforded them light, and contributed in no small degree towards the elevation they now enjoy. And when they hear that Royalty has given an opinion regarding the facts they have so long neglected—when they hear that Royalty recognizes a method of cure which they have for so long a period sneered at, why then we shall really dread the consequences; for the sudden change from a state of wilful ignorance to an ardent desire for knowledge—from the employment of promulgating calumnies, falsehoods and misrepresentations, *to the practice* of the science they have so long ridiculed, must be considered a great revolution. May they in their new position be guided by the dictates of conscientiousness, and strive manfully to overcome the petty promptings of mere animal impulse.

"If it were possible for us to place before our readers the details of the prolonged sufferings endured by Miss Martineau, unalleviated by ordinary treatment, we feel convinced that no unprejudiced medical practitioner could entertain a doubt regarding the result or the means by which it was accomplished. We are not about to dress up a case for the public gaze, we are not about to make any *ad*

captandum statements, we have to deal with a great medical fact—a physiological phenomenon, and our duty is to endeavour to place this before our readers in simple, truthful language, in order to incite them to the use of that power which they all possess, and which they are called upon to use, under judicious authority, for the alleviation and cure of disease. There are many interesting points for consideration in the history of this case, and if this were a medical journal we should not shrink from a full discussion. On the present occasion, however, we shall confine ourselves to a simple statement of the following outline. Let it be distinctly understood, that what we are about to state is authentic; we repeat this, because we are now using the lady's notes, furnished to us by herself, and for our present purpose.

"Miss M. was in America in 1834, and while there, suddenly experienced the first symptoms of her distressing malady. From this period till the autum of 1838 her health gradually gave way. She was not only conscious of this herself, but her delicate appearance alarmed her relations and friends, and one in particular, without converse with the sufferer, suspected the nature of her disease. In April 1839, not knowing the exact nature of her disease, for her brother-in-law, Mr. Greenhow, was unable to give a positive opinion, she under-

took to convey an invalid cousin to Lucerne. During the journey her travelling companions were painfully struck by her depression of spirits, and she became conscious of an increasing inability to enjoy anything; in fact, the whole party became so alarmed, that on their arrival at Venice, Dr. Nardo was consulted, and a letter was despatched to Mr. Greenhow containing a full detail of all her symptoms, After the consultation with Dr. Nardo, an immediate return home was determined on. The journey was made as easy as possible, and by the end of July 1839, Miss M. was under the immediate care of Mr. Greenhow.

"We shall now take the sufferer's own account of her state from this period, July 1839, till Sept. 1841. Miss M. continued to take daily exercise till the middle of October 1839, when her sufferings from sickness, breathlessness and pain in the back, made it too painful to be worth the cost. In January 1840, all the symptoms had increased. It was for some time impossible to raise the right leg more than sufficient to permit walking, and throughout the whole period she could bear none but a recumbent posture from the intolerable sinking which attended every effort to sit upright. She could not sleep at night till she devised a plan of sleeping under a basket, for the purpose of keeping the weight of the bed-clothes from her body, and even

then only in a prone position. She was scared by horrors all night, and reduced by increasing sickness during the day. This sickness increased to such a degree, that for *two years* she was extremely low for want of food. A very small breakfast and tea were nearly all she could take, and these only through the operation of opiates to prevent the vomiting. At the earnest desire of Mr. G. and her family, she repeatedly (four times) attempted to take gentle exercise, but the pain, sinking, and especially the vomiting that ensued, were such as clearly to shew that the cost was too great for any advantage gained.

"From this period the patient was placed under the influence of iodide of iron, and this remedy was continued for THREE YEARS. The general health improved, but the disease remained. In January 1844, Mr. G. expressed his regret at being compelled after so long a use of iodine, to give up all hopes of its affecting the complaint, or of anything beyond alleviation being henceforth practicable. This opinion he again expressed in April, and also in June, 1844.

"About this period, the beginning of June 1844, the period be it remembered of Miss M.'s greatest suffering, several friends wrote to her to suggest a trial of mesmerism; and while her thoughts were engaged on this subject, lo! Mr. Greenhow himself

made his appearance on the 20th of the same month —a fact, by the bye, which he most carefully avoids stating in his pamphlet. They conversed on the subject of mesmerism, and he promised to bring Mr. Spencer Hall, who was then lecturing at Newcastle. On the 22nd of June, Messrs. Greenhow and S. Hall visited Miss M. At this interview such phenomena were produced, that Mr. Hall's visit was repeated on the following day. On Monday, the 24th of June, Mr. H. was prevented from keeping his appointment, and Miss M. had recourse to passes made by her own maid. We refer our readers to her letters, for the detail of the future progress.

"We must here remark that our intelligent and benevolent friend, Mr. Atkinson, from henceforward, directed the course to be pursued, and after a few weeks, fortunately enlisted the sympathy of his friend, Mrs. Montagu Wynyard, jun., who immediately proceeded to Miss M.'s residence. Miss M. says, 'In pure zeal and benevolence this lady came to me, and has been with me ever since. When I found myself able to repose on the knowledge and power (mental and moral) of my mesmerist, the last impediments to my progress were cleared away, and I improved accordingly.' We really want words to express our admiration of this lady's benevolence. We know from abundant experience the amount of

labour, the fatigue and anxiety, which such a case as Miss M.'s must have caused; and when we say that this lady travelled to a distant part of the country, to devote her health, her time, and her energy, for the purpose of mesmerising an individual she did not know, but solely influenced by a desire to alleviate human suffering, we are sure that we shall be more discreet if we do not attempt the use of laudatory language, but simply leave the act to be judged of by those who are capable of appreciating what is so truly grand and benevolent. The language of panegyric is offensive to the intelligent and good, and prolonged allusion to this topic cannot strengthen our admiration. We say to the medical scoffers, and to Mr. Greenhow in particular —'go and do likewise.'

"As we have just said, the entire course pursued by Mrs. Wynyard was indicated by Mr. Atkinson. He received notes describing the progress made and then gave directions accordingly, which were implicitly followed. On September 4th, just *ten* weeks after the commencement of the mesmeric treatment, Mr. G. says to his patient, 'I think we may ascribe this beneficial change to the iodine.' A conclusion from which Miss M. very properly dissented. Innocent and weak Mr. Greenhow! Your patient had taken iodine of iron for *three* years, without the least beneficial effect upon the disease,—on the

22nd of June, 1844, you regretted that the remedy had failed,—on the 4th of September, 1844, after the mesmeric treatment had been pursued for *ten* weeks, and your iodine pills discontinued for *four* weeks, you find your patient very nearly well, and you disingenuously attribute the improvement to the iodine pills!! We say that this is most disreputable conduct. If on the 22nd day of June, 1844, your patient had commenced the use of a new medicine given by yourself, and a like improvement had been observed in the following September, would you have attributed the change to the iodine pills or to the new medicine? We are ashamed of you. There is a want of honesty here—there is a glaring defalcation from the dictates of conscientiousness—a low attempt to exalt your *manifestly useless* remedy, and to make the public believe that mesmerism was of no avail. We much doubt whether the doses you exhibited were calculated to have any other effect than that of a very weak tonic. We think that there was a lack of medical skill in permitting a patient to continue such a medicine for *three* years and in such minute doses. If we wish to attempt the removal of a tumour, we are in the habit of exhibiting a more energetic preparation of iodine, and then increasing the dose till some specific effect is produced. We fearlessly appeal to your unprejudiced medical brethren, and ask

them, if it is fair, honest, or just, to attribute the improvement and ultimate restoration to perfect health in this case, to the effect of a medicine which had been taken for *three* years without any result, and which had been discontinued for *four* weeks, before *you* could positively say that there was improvement?

"On this date (Dec. 6th) Miss M. states, that there was no pain in her back, that she had nights of unbroken sleep, walked several miles daily and led a busy life without fatigue, had gained flesh and spirits, and believed herself in better health than at any part of her previous life. In a letter to Dr. Elliotson, dated Dec. 6th, 1844, she says, 'I am quite well, feeling NO traces of my long disease. I never have the slightest or most transient pain, and my strength seems inexhaustible;'—in fact, the sufferer for *five* years was cured by mesmerism in *five* months!

"With this, our deliberate opinion, we would leave the subject, if we had not noticed the members of our profession conducting the periodical literature, instead of rallying round a defenceless female and protesting against the course adopted by Mr. G., have caught at his vulgar production, and held it up as affording proof, and most convincing proof, that mesmerism had nothing to do with curing, what their own high authority pronounced to be '*an incurable*

disease;' and that as regards the long train of distressing symptoms we have enumerated, and which their medicines could not alleviate, '*that the time had arrived when a new und powerful stimulus only was required, to enable the enthusiastic mind of the patient to shake them off.*' We, however, predict that in less than two years, the case of Miss M. will be quoted by medical men to their patients as affording a most convincing proof of the power of Mesmerism over a disease considered hitherto most intractable.—April, 1845."

Hysterical Epilepsy, with Spinal Affection.

"In December, 1839, I was requested by Mr. Hallion, surgeon, of Warren Street, to see a young lady, named Spong, residing at 31, High-street, Camden Town. She was sixteen years old, and lying on her back upon a machine, on account of a curvature of her spine, and had severe epileptic fits, with some symptoms of Hysteria.

"She had enjoyed good health till her thirteenth year, when, in the spring of 1836, she frequently fainted, and had a pain in the left side, and her spine became curved. In November of the same year, the faintings changed to epileptic fits. She

was placed upon her back on an apparatus, under the care of Mr. Thornber. But the epileptic fits were so violent that the cure was prevented, and Mr. Thornber wished to give up the case. She re-required five people to hold her, and in spite of them all, would turn round on her face. Mr. Carter, now of Reading, and then Mr. Hallion, mesmerised her twice a week for six months.

"Her fits continued as frequent as before, but were less violent, so that she did not require holding, and was not exhausted, as previously, on coming out of them. She fell asleep when mesmerised for a quarter of an hour.

"I mesmerised her in December, 1839, and she went to sleep the first time. I spoke to her and she answered me, and proved to be in the deeper sleep-waking, for she knew me and knew she was asleep. I asked whether I should be able to cure her: 'Yes.' I enquired, when? 'In four months.'

"Her attacks were numerous and in rapid succession when they came upon her. Originally they came every other day for six months; then once a week, and for six months on a Tuesday, at the same hour; then once a fortnight for the last two years. She had taken medicine all along, but in vain. Her face was always so swollen and red the next day that she could not be seen.

"She predicted to me not only the period of their

cessation, but the day and *hour* of each attack. She said the next would be on the Thursday, and the mother could scarcely believe her senses when she saw them come on that day. They returned about once a fortnight, on no regular day or hour; but *always as she foretold* to me in the mesmeric sleep-waking. She opened her eyes at my bidding; but no attempt at tractive or other experiments succeeded; and no other powers were developed.

"I mesmerised her twice a week for a month; and then only once a fortnight,—when the attack was expected, during the attack, and after it was over. Mr. Hallion also, however, mesmerised her always twice a week. She had nine fits every attack, except the last, and then she had only one. exactly as she had predicted.

"Trusting to her prediction, I discontinued the mesmerism when the four months were expired, and *the disease has never returned.*

"I received the following note from Mr. Hallion at the beginning of this year:—

"'My dear Sir,—I feel confident you will derive great pleasure in seeing an old patient of our's from Camden Town, Miss Spong, who you may recollect was perfectly cured of epilepsy by mesmerism. Her spinal complaint is now perfectly well also. I send her to you *merely* to shew herself, as another proof of the efficacy of an agent which has been so much

calumniated. I hope you are quite well; and remain ever,

'My dear Sir, yours faithfully,

'JOHN H. HALLION.'

'64, Warren St., Fitzroy Sq.,
Feb. 14th, 1843.'

"I saw her to-day (Dec. 23) in perfect health, I must bestow the same praise upon Mr. Hallion and Mr. Carter that I did upon Mr. White.

"She was always much stronger after mesmerisation; and when I did it, she went to sleep sooner. and was quiet in the fits, the convulsions working only and not moving any part of her from its situation. She lay on her back for the spinal complaint no longer than the following September.

"Her gratitude, like that of nearly all the patients who have been cured, knows no bounds."

Epilepsy.

"A friend in Upper Harley Street requested me to see the nephew of her housekeeper, as he was was troubled with fits; and the youth, William Hodges, aged 19, a tailor, of 10, South Molton-street, came to me May 19th, 1841.

"Three months previously he fell upon his left

side on the ice, and, though his head was not struck, it was so shaken that he does not know how he got home, remembering nothing between the fall and his finding himself at home. As soon as he found himself at home, he had repeated fits, decidedly epileptic, so that many men could scarcely restrain him; and in four hours he was bled, and had no more fits for a day or two. But afterwards the least noise startled him, and caused a fit, even the sudden cough of a child. They were very frequent, and each left him weak for an hour.

"That I might judge of their present frequency, I enquired how many had occurred this month, and found that there had been one on the 2nd, the 8th, the 14th, and two on the 15th. I requested Mr. Wood to mesmerise him for me, and he was mesmerised for half an hour daily, *except on Sundays.*

"He had no fit for a fortnight after mesmerism was begun. He then was frightened by a person behind him saying he would be run over; felt ill,—'felt the fits in him,' but had no fit till evening, when, going up stairs in the dark, a cat jumped out and he was instantly seized with a paroxysm. It was very severe—stronger and longer than usual, and he tried to bite in it, felt ill and stupid all all night, and did not sleep.

"He had no fit again till the *second Sunday* after this; and had another on the *following Sunday.* As

they probably occurred from the omission of mesmerism on Sundays, he was afterwards mesmerised every day till the middle of August, and *he has never had a return to this hour, though very often frightened enough to occasion them, had any predisposition been left.* He got married in August, 1842, and I saw him in good health to-day (Dec. 24th).

"The only sensible effect was an occasional drowsiness during the process, and invariably after it. Mr. Symes mesmerised him for Mr. Wood during a fortnight in the middle of the time, and he felt always very much more drowsy when Mr. Symes mesmerised him."

Epileptic Hysteria, with Lock-jaw and Contraction of one Leg.

"Maria Pearsey, twenty-five years old, a stout and strong-looking person, was admitted under my care into University College Hospital, June 25th, 1838, on account of very frequent and violent fits, of an epileptic and hysterical character. They occurred daily, and often, many times in the day: seized her suddenly, and produced perfect insensibility, and very violent convulsions, so that many could scarcely restrain her.

"Her right leg was firmly bent up nearly to the body, and no force could bring it down. Her jaw was firmly locked; and we observed that *four of her front teeth had been drawn*, and, as we learnt, *for the purpose of passing food into her mouth and preventing her from being starved.*

"This lamentable disease had begun *nine* years before, when she was sixteen years of age; up to which time she had enjoyed perfect health. She was then frightened by a young gentleman in the house where she was servant, jumping suddenly up before her, covered with a sheet, while she was opening the cellar door. She fell insensible, and remained so for three days; and from that time had very violent fits, at first purely hysterical, but at length more of an epileptic character.

"Not only had *private practitioners* failed to be of any service to her, but she had been in vain, *four months* in St. George's Hospital; *four months* in St. Thomas's Hospital; *four months* in Guy's Hospital; and *ten months* in the Westminster Hospital, where Mr. Guthrie gave her a *very large quantity of mercury and salivated her severely*, and where Mr. White was anxious *to cut off her bent-up leg.*

"I determined to trust the treatment entirely to mesmerism, and requested one of my clinical clerks to make longitudinal passes before her face for half an hour daily. In *less than a fortnight* her jaw

began to open; it opened now daily, and on *July* 12, *rather more than a fortnight*, it opened widely.

"I have had two similar cases of lock-jaw of some continuance, in young women, since I cultivated mesmerism; and in both I succeeded perfectly. Had mesmerism been employed by those who treated her previously, the poor girl might have still been in possession of her upper and lower front teeth. Not only, however, had the jaw opened widely enough on the 25th, for her to eat her dinner like the other patients, but *her leg had relaxed so much that the toes touched the ground.* Still she had no power to move it, and it was in some degree contracted.

"July 28th. *Her leg came quite down in the night.* The fits gradually lessened, and *she went out well in October;* and *never had a return of any of her complaints.*

"Here was another exquisite case: inexpensive, for she had only aperient medicine when requisite, and tending to elevate the reputation of the hospital, where she was easily and permanently cured, after the failure of St. George's, St. Thomas's, Guy's, and the Westminster, through two years of ample opportunity. But this easy and inexpensive mode of cure was forbidden, and is now unknown in that place.

"No other sensible effect was induced but drowsiness, and sometimes a little sleep.

"If the passes were made quickly, she was distressed, and a fit brought on.

"Being very nervous and having suffered much, she was agitated and rendered hysterical and convulsed by any roughness of behaviour; to which I regret she was often exposed.

"As the leg came down, splints and rollers were applied, to secure the ground gained; and, in one of the other cases of lock-jaw to which I have alluded, I put a cork between the teeth as the jaw opened more and more, for the same purpose."

Case of St. Vitus's Dance of nine years duration.

Dr. Elliotson mentions the case of a patient whom he found labouring under a very severe form of St. Vitus's dance of *nine* years duration. Dr. Marshall Hall prescribed "*mustard cataplasms to the spine, cupping on the back of the neck* EVERY FIFTH DAY, *and mercury to such an extent that not one sound tooth is left in the patient's head.*" He treated the case for *three* months, and wished to continue his plan for *a twelvemonth.* The friends, however, interfered, and Sir Benjamin Brodie was consulted, "who *con-*

demned the treatment in the most unqualified manner, declined to prescribe medicines, or to see the patient again, and stated that nothing more could be done than to endeavour, by every means, to strengthen the debilitated frame." Dr. Hall, however, wrote a letter, still in the possession of the family, maintaining his opinion, and treating Sir Benjamin Brodie's opinion most contemptuously. On being consulted, Dr. Elliotson advised that, "as mesmerism had been begun, it should be continued rather than the case be abandoned; though he entreated them not to be disappointed, if no good resulted." And he adds, "For the last four months, mesmerism has been daily persevered with; and the gradual but steady improvement in the strength, the sleep, and looks of the patient, and the decline of the disease, astonishes every one. Now that Dr. Hall has learned the improvement by mesmerism, he says that he *all along* (while cupping every five days, and giving mercury freely, and proposing to do all this for twelve months!) suspected, and is *now* (mesmerism having done great good) *perfectly certain* that the case was *feigned!* I should like to observe his countenance when he says so."

In the Zoist for July 1843, Dr. Elliotson give reports of cures of the same complaint in the practice of Dr. Simpson of York, Mr. Prideaux of Southampton, and in other cases of his own. The case of

Master Linnell of Northampton, nine years of age, had baffled a great number of medical men, when at length application was made to Dr. Elliotson.

"On January 4th, 1843," says the Doctor, "he was brought in a coach to me, and obliged to be carried into the house. Supported by his mother, he walked with great difficulty from my dining-room into my library.

"His debility was such, that he could not stand a moment unsupported; his head hung on one side; his tongue out of his mouth, which constantly slobbered; his look was quite fatuitous; he could not articulate, making only inarticulate noises, and these with extreme difficulty: even 'Yes' and 'No' were said in the strangest manner, so as hardly to be understood. He often fell into a passion at not being able to articulate; he ground his teeth and sighed greatly, continually blew bubbles of saliva from his mouth, and moved his tongue. The movements of the disease had lessened, so as not to be in proportion to his extreme muscular debility. He could use neither hand for any purpose, and scarcely ever raised the right. He was low-spirited and fretful, and often cried almost without cause.

"His tongue was clean and moist, his appetite good, and his bowels in the most healthy condition; his pulse was 74.

"He cried sadly at being brought to me, thinking

that I should give him loads of physic to swallow, and blister him, as others had done.

"I mesmerised him by vertical passes before his face for half an hour. He sat well supported in an easy chair, his head on his breast; but *he sat so quietly in comparison with his usual state, that his mother noticed it.* He was mesmerised daily for the same time in the same way."

Dr. Elliotson proceeds to narrate the progress of the cure until the 15th of February, when the patient was mesmerised for the last time—and thus concludes—

"Nothing could be more decisive of the power of mesmerism than this case. The disease was getting worse and worse at the time I began. An effect was visible in a few days; the benefit steadily increased—and from being a slobbering, idiot-looking child, his head hanging on one side, unable to speak or stand unsupported, in three weeks he could stand easily, and walk five miles. Not a particle of medicine was given after the first day.

"The true gratitude of the boy and his mother was delightful. But my medical reward was, that the surgeon who attended him, and whose very name I had never before heard of, gave way to such bad feeling as publicly to attack me, by reiterating a silly and ignorant string of sentences from a very dull and feeble medical periodical, but took care

to omit all mention of the case which led to his hostility."

The work of Mr. Braid, entitled *Neurypnology*, contains accounts of a great number of highly interesting cases. The phenomena induced by this mode of producing sleep, and that of the Mesmerisers, Mr. Braid, for a considerable time, conceived to be identical, and he still believes "the condition of the nervous system induced by both modes to be at least analagous;" but he has latterly been led to think that the agencies are distinct, because the Mesmerisers assert that they can produce certain effects which he has never been able to accomplish by his mode. Pehaps, therefore, medical gentlemen who had formed a determined resolution to have nothing to do with Mesmerism, may be tempted to bestow a few minutes consideration upon the merits of *Neurypnology*. They will meet in Mr. Braid's volume with none of the ugly words which used to form such stumbling-blocks in their path. The name of Mesmerism is rejected, but then they have Hypnotism, which means *nervous* sleep. Instead of to mesmerise, they have to hypnotise, which means to induce *nervous* sleep; and instead of mes-

merised they have hypnotised, meaning one who has been put into the state of *nervous* sleep. These changes will, we hope, please our medical friends, and induce them to turn a favourable eye to the cases which Mr. Braid has laid before them.

Hypnotism has been applied by Mr. Braid to numerous diseases, and seemingly with great success. He has tested its efficacy in cases where the senses of hearing, sight, and smell were affected. In tic-doloureux, spinal complaints, paralysis, rheumatism both chronic and acute, nervous head-ache, epilepsy, and several other diseases, he has also found it highly beneficial. Several cases of spasmodic affection are referred to as affording "strong grounds to hope that tetanus, hydrophobia, and other analagous affections, may be arrested and cured by this agency." We extract the following account of a

Case of Tetanus, or severe Spasmodic Affection.

"Master J. B., thirteen years of age, was suddenly attacked with chilliness and pain all over his body, on the evening of the 30th of last March. I was called to attend him the following day, when I considered he had got a febrile attack from cold, and prescribed accordingly. Next day, however, it had assumed a very different aspect. I now found I had got a

severe case of opisthotonos* to deal with. The head and pelvis were rigidly drawn back, the body forming an arch, and the greatest force could not succeed in straightening it, or bringing the head forward. Whilst the spasm never relaxed entirely, it frequently became much aggravated, when, the head was so much drawn back as to seriously impede respiration. The legs were also sometimes flexed spasmodically. The effect of the spasm in obstructing the respiration, and hurrying the circulation, was very great, and seemed to place the patient in great jeopardy. The pulse was never less than 150, but during the paroxysm was considerably increased. It was evident I had got a most formidable case to contend with, and that no time ought to be lost. I therefore determined to try the power of hypnotism, well knowing how generally such cases end fatally under ordinary treatment. He was quite sensible, and the only difficulty in getting him to comply with my instructions arose from the recurrence of the severe spasmodic attacks. In a very few minutes, however, I succeeded in reducing the spasm, so that his head could be carried forward to the perpendicular, his breathing was relieved, his pulse considerably diminished, and I left

* The state when the muscles of the back are most affected, rendering the body sometimes as stiff as a board.

him in a state of comparative comfort. In about two and a half hours after I visited him again, accompanied by my friend Dr. Cochrane. The spasms had recurred, but by no means with the same violence. Dr. Cochrane had no difficulty in recognising the disease; but did not believe any means could save such a case. He had never seen a patient hypnotised till that afternoon, and watched my experiment with much interest and attention. He seemed much and agreeably surprised by the extraordinary influence which an agency so apparently simple exerted over such a case. The pupil was speedily dilated, as if under the influence of belladonna; the muscular spasm relaxed, and in a few minutes he was calmly asleep. Having ordered three calomel powders to be given at intervals, we left him comfortably asleep. Next day there was still spasm of the muscles, but by no means so severe. Whilst I determined to follow up the hypnotic treatment, which had been so far successful, I considered it would be highly imprudent to trust *wholly* to that, in the treatment of such a case. As I consider such cases are generally attended with inflammation of the medulla oblongata, and upper part of the spinal cord, I bled him, and ordered the calomel to be continued. The same plan was persevered in, hypnotising him occasionally for some days, administering calomel till the gums were slightly affected, cold

lotion to the head, and the antiphlogistic regimen, till I considered all risk of inflammatory action past, when he was treated more generously, and I am gratified to say he is now quite well."

In conclusion, Mr. Braid remarks—"I feel quite confident that without the aid of hypnotism, this patient would have died. I sincerely wish it may prove equally successful in other cases of the kind, and also in that hitherto fatal disease hydrophobia. My anxiety to see it fairly tried in the latter disease, induces me to offer my gratuitous services in any case of that disease occurring within a few hours' journey of Manchester."

Another case of Spasmodic Affection—that of Miss Collins of Newark—which led Mr. Braid to think that his mode of treatment might prove successful as in the case just quoted, is thus recorded by the father of the patient:—

"My daughter, sixteen years of age, had been afflicted for six months with a rigid contraction of the muscles on the left side of the neck to so great a degree, that it would have been impossible to insert an ordinary card between the ear and shoulders, so close was their contact; and consequently she was rapidly becoming malformed. She had had the best

advice to be procured in the country, and I had taken her to London with a written statement of the treatment previously employed, and had the opinion of Sir Benjamin Brodie, who approved of what had been done, but gave no hope of speedy relief.

"In consequence of seeing a report of a lecture given on the subject by Mr. Braid, surgeon, St. Peter's Square, Manchester, and a letter written to that gentlemen by Mr. Mayo of London, I went with her, by the advice of Dr. Chawner, who, indeed, accompanied us, and placed her under the care of Mr. Braid, on Thursday evening, the 24th March last, (1842.) In less than a minute after that gentleman began to fix her attention she was in a mesmeric (neurohypnotic) slumber, and in another minute was partially cataleptic. Mr. Braid, then, without awaking her, and consequently without giving her any pain, placed her head upright, which I firmly believe could not, by any possibility, have been done five minutes before, without disruption of the muscles, or the infliction of some serious injury; and, I am thankful to say, it not only continues straight, but she has the perfect control over the muscles of the neck. A nervous motion of the head, to which she had been subject after her return from Manchester, has entirely ceased, and she is at present in excellent health. It is necessary to remark, that at Dr. Chawner's recommendation she

was frequently watched while asleep, but not the slightest relaxation was observed in the contracted muscles.

"Many respectable friends can bear testimony to the statements here made.

(Signed) "JAMES COLLINS.

"Newark, 11th May, 1842."

Mr. Braid subsequently adds:—"After the lapse of a year, Mr. Collins was so kind as to write to inform me his daughter continued in perfect health, with complete control over the muscles of the neck."

Mr. Braid gives reports of cases, amounting to between sixty and seventy, in the various branches of disease which we have enumerated, and which we hope the Profession will have the candour to receive, in the manner they merit, as coming from an intelligent member of their own profession. It is really time that the disgraceful, and, in some instances, unprincipled opposition, offered by medical men to mesmerism should cease. What, for example, is to be said regarding such conduct as the following?—

"I consider it necessary," says Mr. Braid, in his preface, "to explain that my reason for having inserted some cases attested by the patients. and

others, is, that most unwarrantable interferences have been resorted to by several medical men, in order to misrepresent some of them. In one instance, in order to obtain an *attested erroneous* document, the case was READ to *the patient, and others present*, THE VERY REVERSE OF WHAT WAS WRITTEN. However extraordinary such conduct may appear, the fact of its occurrence was *publicly proved and borne testimony to by the patient and other parties present on the occasion when the document was obtained.*"

Strange as such conduct may appear, yet it is not uncommon. Every experienced Mesmeric practitioner could bring forward many various illustrations; thus some, as soon as mesmerism is proposed or commenced, take every opportunity of trying to weaken the faith of the patient, though no more confidence is really required, than what the ordinary attendant knows is necessary for any thing he may himself prescribe; others, will ridicule the idea of any agency whatever, but should the least thing unfavourable occur during the treatment, then they change about, and unwittingly ascribe the accidental occurrences to the injurious effects of a power which they had previously denied. Common prudence, if no higher motive, should point out to medical men, that in all such instances they must sooner or later forfeit the good

opinion and confidence of their patients and the family.

Surely it is for the honour of the profession that such atrocious proceedings should be universally scouted, and that the vilest of calumnies should no longer be propagated in order to damage the cause of mesmerism.

SURGICAL OPERATIONS,
WITHOUT PAIN.

It was my intention, had space allowed, to have given insertion to many other cases treated by different medical gentlemen; however, the sources of this information are open in so accessible a form, by the publication of the Zoist, that I shall now conclude the selection with a few, intended chiefly to shew the efficacy of Mesmerism, in Surgical Operations without pain. Already these cases are very numerous, and even if mesmerism never accomplished any thing more, this alone would entitle it to the kindly consideration of every well wisher to our species. How many operations have been postponed until too late, in consequence of

the dreaded pain! and how many actually operated upon, have sunk from the consequent irritation, produced by pain and fear? Should this little work fall under the eye of any Governors of Hospitals, and other Charities, it is sincerely to be hoped, that they will at once see the propriety of allowing mesmerism a fair trial. They may be opposed most probably by the medical officers; but it is now time, that the independent Governors should think and act for themselves, on matters in which all are so deeply interested, and in which every one who takes the trouble, can form a competent opinion.

Independent of Surgical operations without pain, there are also many other affections which can be relieved, and oftentimes cured, by mesmerism. In every Hospital there should be a Mesmeric Ward, and then we should not find about our streets so many distressed objects, suffering from fits and other complaints, which have been discharged as incurable. I have seen several of these cases, here and elsewhere, and I do not hesitate to affirm, that mesmerism would succeed in curing many. My regret is, from want of time, and the necessary accommodation which those cases require, that I am prevented undertaking but a very limited number, though I should be happy, in any way, to give my services in the carrying out of these recommendations.

Case of Amputation of the Thigh without Pain.

On the 22d of November, 1842, the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London were presented with an "account of a case of successful amputation of the thigh, during the mesmeric state, without the knowledge of the patient," in the District Hospital of Wellow, Nottinghamshire. The mesmeriser was W. Topham, Esq., Barrister of the Middle Temple; the operator, W. Squire Ward, Esq., surgeon, of Wellow Hall. The patient was a labourer, six feet high, and forty-two years of age, named James Wombell. The details appeared in many of the journals at the time, and it is therefore unnecessary to repeat them. Those who are desirous of further information may consult a pamphlet by Dr. Elliotson, entitled "Numerous Cases of Surgical Operations, without Pain, in the Mesmeric State."

As usual, a report was soon circulated, that this poor man had confessed he had been deceiving all present, and had really suffered great pain; this, however, was flatly contradicted by the attestation of the poor man himself, signed in the presence of a clergyman and Mr. Ward.

Amputation of the Leg above the knee.

Two operations have within a few months been performed at Leicester during the mesmeric state; the last case, that of Mary Ann Lakin, has excited

much interest. She had been suffering from extensive disease of the knee-joint, which became so alarming as to render amputation necessary, even to prolong her existence. The operation was performed by Mr. Tosswell, surgeon; the mesmeriser was Mr. J. Collins. An eye-witness affirms, that "she remained during the operation almost motionless, so that there was no occasion to support her on the table, as is usual on these occasions." On being put to bed and demesmerised, she was asked what she had felt? She said, "she had been dreaming that a person had tied something tightly round her *sound* leg, and that she felt angry, and gave him a kick to make him desist." Her features did not change from the calmness first noted; and the witness, a surgeon, concludes by saying, that "he believes and feels assured, that the girl by mesmerism, has evaded the horrors of the operation."

A report here also, was raised by some medical men, that the poor girl was an impostor. She was ably vindicated by the Editor of the "Leicester Chronicle," who had witnessed the case throughout, and who concludes an interesting article by saying, "If any confirmation were wanting to the beneficial operation of mesmerism in the case of Mary Ann Lakin, we could add our own humble testimony to it; and we would also proffer our full conviction of the honesty of the whole proceedings."

Extraction of Teeth.

Mr. Gardiner of Portsmouth, in a communication to the *Hampshire Telegraph*, dated the 9th of December 1841, gives the case of a young lady who had a couple of teeth extracted while in the mesmeric sleep. He says, "Mr. Martin (a dentist of the town) seized the tooth (a molar or jaw tooth) with the forceps,—purposely prolonged the *wrench*, (as agreed upon by Dr. Engledue, prior to his visit, in order to test *thoroughly* the insensibility of the patient,) and drew forth the tooth. *Not a pang or symptom of suffering!* In a short time I restored the patient to her natural state, in the usual manner. Upon being *told* that the tooth had been extracted, she exclaimed, 'Did I feel it!'—a singular greeting to a dentist's ears! Mr. Martin then proceeded to examine her mouth, and suggested the removal of another tooth. The patient laughingly consented, and sat again. In one minute and a half I again entranced her, and she became, of course, insensible as before. The tooth being in an advanced stage of decay, was crushed under the instrument, and the remnants were, with much trouble extracted. During the whole of this trying operation not a groan or complaint escaped the patient."

Mr. Prideaux, a surgeon of Southampton, in a letter addressed to Dr. Elliotson, describes the case of a patient who had a great number of decayed

teeth and stumps, from which she suffered severely, but who still could not summon resolution to undergo their extraction. While in the mesmeric sleep, and at various sittings, Mr. Prideaux extracted, in all, from the mouth of this patient, eleven teeth and eleven stumps, the last being removed preparatory to her being supplied with a set of artificial teeth. During the sitting at which two of the most troublesome teeth were extracted, Mr. Prideaux says, "The patient sat with the hands quietly folded in the lap—the countenance was placid and serene, and the whole attitude that of repose." The other sittings were attended with equally satisfactory results.

Mr. Prideaux mentions several other cases, and he states, regarding one of these,—"A fifth patient, on whom I have operated during the mesmeric state, is a young lady who required to have several of her molares separated with a file, on account of the commencement of decay, and one stopped. I found her a most troublesome and restless patient, in her natural state, shrinking when the cavity of her tooth was touched, and complaining greatly of the unpleasantness of the sensation of filing. I succeeded in entrancing her at the first trial, in about five minutes, and, in this state, she allowed me to operate for two hours with the most passive indifference, assuring me she felt nothing, except

a slight sensation of heat, when the file was used rapidly and continuously for sometime together."

Mr. Carstairs of Sheffield, besides extracting teeth, in the "case of a lad about twelve years of age, opened a large abscess behind the ear, inserted a dossil of lint, and dressed the wound, without the patient being sensible of pain." With like success, he has "cut a large wart from the back of a female's hand;" and, in another case, inserted a seton, without the slightest pain.

Dr. Ashburner of the Middlesex Hospital, with several pupils, witnessed the extraction of two teeth from Jane Knowles, and 8 molar teeth from another patient. The nurse of the ward said, that it was nearly two hours before the last patient could be convinced that she had lost her teeth while she was asleep.*

Division of Tendons at the back of the Knee-joint.

Dr. Engledue of Southsea, gives the following case in a letter to Dr. Elliotson, dated Dec. 1st, 1842:—

* The *Times* of the 24th of March last, contains the following well attested case of the extraction of a tooth, without pain, during the mesmeric sleep; it bears date March 19th, 1845:—

"We, the undersigned members and visitors of the Mesmeric Society, witnessed the extraction of a tooth from the mouth of Anne Wakeland, by Mr. Purland, surgeon dentist, 59, Mortimer Street, Cavendish Square, she being in a mesmeric trance produced by Mr. W. J. Vernon; and we hereby certify and believe, that the patient did not exhibit or feel pain."

[Here follow the signatures of nearly 20 respectable individuals.]

"Miss K., aet. 17, had suffered for two years from a variety of symptoms, the result of spinal irritation. The right knee was slightly contracted from the commencement of her illness, but, for twelve months preceding the operation, the contraction was so complete, that it was quite impossible to separate the heel from the back part of the thigh.

"For nearly three months she was regularly mesmerised by Mr. Gardiner; all the symptoms were very much relieved, and some altogether removed, by this treatment. The knee-joint, however, continued firmly contracted. I shall not now enter into a description of the reasons which prompted me to perform the operation of division of the tendons at the back of the knee-joint; my only object is to report that the operation was performed during the mesmeric trance, and *without any manifestation of feeling*. Some hours after the operation, the patient was demesmerised; there was no expression of astonishment, and no remark made, till some spots of blood on the sheet of the bed attracted her attention. The proceedings were then explained to her, and the effect can be more easily imagined than described."

Removal of diseased Bone from the Jaw.

Dr. Charlton, assistant-surgeon, Royal Marines, in a statement, dated Melville Hospital, Chatham,

June 9th, 1842, wherein he says that he had previously disbelieved mesmerism, gives the case of Mrs. Gregory, nurserywoman to Mrs. Valiant, the lady of Captain Valiant, 40th Regiment. The patient, Dr. Charlton states, who had been "for a long time suffering from decayed teeth, which caused much constitutional irritation, applied to me early in May, complaining of headache, and pain in the upper jaw of the most excruciating kind. On examination, the gums were found ulcerated, the alveolar processes carious on the right side, and presenting numerous spicula of bone projecting through the gums, which were exquisitely painful on the slightest pressure with the finger. Filing off the spicula of bone was advised, and consented to. The performance of the operation having been proposed while she was under the influence of mesmeric sleep, was undertaken on the 25th of May, in the presence of Sir Thomas Willshire and Captain Valiant of this garrison. Sleep was speedily induced by Sir Thomas, and she was pronounced in a fit state to bear the operation in half an hour.

"An incision was made on both sides of the alveolar processes, extending from the incisor to the molar teeth, dividing the gums, which were turned back so as to expose the diseased bone. The spicula, being considered the principal source of annoyance, were filed off smooth with the jaw, the gums approximated, and creosote applied to the carious

points. The filing occupied fully five minutes. *The patient, however, to my great astonishment, evinced not the slightest feeling from the operation,* and continued undisturbed in the enjoyment of profound sleep for one hour, at the expiration of which time she was awoke by Sir Thomas, appearing as if aroused from a dream. Some minutes elapsed before perfect consciousness became restored, when she expressed herself *incredulous* that any operation had been performed on her jaw, being quite free from all pain."

Amputation of the Breast.

The case of the lady whose breast was amputated for cancer, while in the mesmeric sleep, by M. Jules Cloquet, is recorded in the report of the second French Commission, and has been frequently republished in this country. Attempts have of late been made to call the truth of the narrative in question,* but they have merely brought disgrace upon the journals which gave currency to the unfounded statements. An analogous case, reported by the Doctors Hamard and Oudet, was noticed about the year 1837, in the "Journal de Medécine et de Chirurgie."

* A report was spread that the patient died in an hospital, and confessed that she had deceived. This M. Colquet avers is altogether untrue; the patient, who was the wife of a wealthy person, never having been in an hospital, or made any such confession.

APPENDIX.

PHRENO-MESMERISM, SOMNAMBULISM, AND CLAIRVOYANCE.

It was not my intention to have referred to these interesting topics; but I find them so intimately connected with the present subject, that a few remarks may prove acceptable to my readers. Phreno-Mesmerism, and the still higher condition, Clairvoyance, present themselves in some form or other during the mesmeric treatment of many patients; indeed, those who have been much engaged in enquiries of this nature, must have seen so many instances of these higher manifestations, as to place beyond all doubt the actual conditions. Phreno-Mesmerism appears to be the result, of certain portions of the brain being excited during the mesmeric state, and shewing manifestations corresponding to the phrenological organs. Similar results have occurred in numberless individuals; in some, who have been perfectly ignorant of phrenology, and in others, who were not aware of the experiments being made, and the manifestations exhibited have been so far superior to any thing that could be simulated in the natural state, that to deny the existence of the phenomena is to doubt the evidence of our own senses; in truth, supposing it were collusion, the imposition would be far more surprising than the reality. To Mesmerisers they are common results; to those who have only seen an occasional case or two, they are staggering; and to those who have not witnessed anything, they are considered too wonderful to be true. On this subject, Mr. Chevenix says—

"Wonderful, indeed, it may appear, but what makes anything wonderful to us, if not our ignorance? In my recollection they have wondered at hydrogen and oxygen, at a dead frog jumping between two plates of metal, at gas-lights and steam-boats, and now they wonder at any one who wonders at these familiar things. Everything in creation is wonderful or nothing is so, but the last

known truth always appears the most miraculous to unreflecting minds. Since the world began, men have been wondering at everything, till habit tamed their minds upon it."

"In receiving facts upon testimony," Dr. Abercrombie, in his work on the Intellectual Powers, says, "that although it should lead us to examine carefully the evidence upon which we receive facts, we should beware of allowing it to engender scepticism. For while an unbounded credulity is the part of a weak mind which never thinks or reasons at all, an unlimited scepticism is the part of a contracted mind which reasons upon imperfect data, or makes its own knowledge and extent of observation the standard and test of probability. An ignorant peasant may reject the testimony of a philosopher in regard to the size of the moon, because he thinks he has the evidence of his senses that it is only a foot in diameter; and a person holding a respectable rank in society is said to have received with contempt the doctrine of the revolution of the earth on its axis, because he was perfectly satisfied that his house was never known to turn with its front to the north. When the King of Siam was told by a Dutch traveller, that in Holland at certain seasons of the year water becomes so solid that an elephant might walk over it, he replied, 'I have believed many extraordinary things which you have told me, because I took you for a man of truth and veracity, but now I am convinced that you lie.' Had the King of Siam once seen water in a frozen state, he would not only have been put right in regard to this fact, but his confidence would have been shaken in his own experience as the test of probability in other things, and he would have been more disposed for the farther reception of truth upon the evidence of testimony."

I subjoin the following well attested cases, verified by many respectable witnesses:—

[*From the Times newspaper of Tuesday, June* 25, 1844.]

"SOMNAMBULISM AND CLAIRVOYANCE.—A young gentleman, known as Alexis the Somnambulist, has just arrived from Paris under the care of M. Marcillet, and was exhibited yesterday, for the first time (we believe) in London, at the residence of Dr. Elliotson. Alexis has for some period excited much interest in Paris by the wonderful powers of *clairvoyance* which he manifests whilst in a state of magnetic sleep. Through the kindness of Dr. Elliotson, a large number of ladies, and scientific and distinguished persons, had an

opportunity yesterday of witnessing M. Marcillet's experiments. It is but just to Dr. Elliotson to observe, that previously to the commencement of the experiments, he stated that he did not hold himself at all responsible for what M. Marcillet had advanced. Knowing M. Marcillet to be a gentleman of undoubted respectability, Dr. Elliotson permitted him to hold his first levee in Conduit-street, taking no part whatever in the proceedings. Without admitting that we have become believers in the possibility of producing such a condition as that known by the name of *clairvoyance*, we must nevertheless honestly confess that we have been much staggered by what we saw after M. Marcillet had thrown his patient into the magnetic state, and exhibited the tetanic spasm or rigidity of the muscles of the arms and legs which usually accompanies this condition of the nervous system. Preparatory to the phenomena of *clairvoyance* being shewn, the patient's eyes were bandaged. We pledge ourselves that we did this effectually. To see, in the ordinary sense of the word, a ray of light was physically impossible. Two large pieces of wool were placed over each eye, and above this were bound with great care two linen handkerchiefs folded several times. Thus blindfolded, he was placed at a table and commenced playing écarté with a strange gentleman in the room. It was, indeed, wonderful to see with what accuracy he played, not only knowing every suit he had in his own hands, but, by a species of divination, being able to detect the condition of his opponent's hand. Several persons played with him, and among others Mr. Jerdan, who, however, was fortunate enough to beat the Somnambulist. To exhibit the youth's extraordinary powers, a large book of plates, nearly two inches in thickness, was placed between Alexis and his opponent, and, notwithstanding this physical impediment, the Somnambulist was able to tell the person with whom he was playing the cards he held in his hand. It may be said there was collusion. We know such was not the case. Alexis then had a letter placed in his hands by Colonel Gurwood, with the view of ascertaining whether he was competent to make out the name of the party who had written the letter. It appears that Colonel Gurwood had placed himself in communication with Alexis, some time back in Paris, in order to discover whether he had it in his power to give him any hint by which to enable him to discover the residence of a French soldier, whose life Colonel Gurwood had saved during the

siege of Badajos. Alexis, during the magnetic state, gave Colonel Gurwood some valuable information on the subject of his enquiry; and, acting upon this, he was fortunate enough to find not only the name of the person, but his place of abode. Colonel Gurwood wrote to the soldier, and the letter which he had placed folded in Alexis' hands was the answer which he had received. Alexis, after a little examination, wrote down the person's name, and told Col. Gurwood the purport of the letter which he held in his hand. He made certainly one mistake, in the final letter of the person's name; but this did not in the slightest degree detract from his ordinary penetration. Another gentleman who had not seen Alexis previously, (Colonel Gardener we believe,) asked the Somnambulist to describe his residence. This he did with great accuracy, telling him the number of pictures he had in his drawing-room, their peculiar position, and the subjects of the pictures. Watches were then placed in his hand, and, by merely feeling on the back of the case for a few minutes, he pointed out, with one exception, the exact position of the hour and minute hands. A large book of plates was subsequently held to the back of his head, and to the amazement of every person in the room Alexis was able to describe the various prints to which his attention was directed.

"We have thus endeavoured faithfully to record the facts which we witnessed this day. It is our belief that the experiments were performed fairly, and that in no single instance did anything like collusion exist. We do not pretend to account for the strange, the wonderful phenomena which the youth certainly manifested. Of course there were many present who refused to admit the possibility of any person seeing under such circumstances. One gentleman, more incredulous that the rest, declared most emphatically that Alexis was able to see down his nose—an hypothesis, we must confess, at variance with all our anatomical and physiological knowledge. With his eyes almost hermetically sealed he was able to read a book taken from among a number of works on the table. Independently of this, a handkerchief twice folded was placed over the printed page of a large volume, and through this the Somnambulist was able to read with facility. We have thus endeavoured faithfully to record the experiments performed this day. We draw no conclusions from the facts: we confess they are mysterious and inexplicable—beyond our comprehension. Let those who are dis-

posed to be sceptical examine the matter for themselves; they will, we understand, have frequent opportunities of doing so."

In the Zoist will be found other reports of Alexis on different occasions. In the month of July last, another demonstration of his powers was shewn at Dr. Elliotson's. The following gentlemen having witnessed, some having tested, the above experiments, voluntarily subscribed their names to a paper, expressive of their conviction of the integrity of these wonderful phenomena:—

The Viscount Adare, 76, Eaton-square.
John Elliotson, M.D., Conduit-street.
John Ashburner, M.D., Wimpole-street.
James George Davey, M.D., Hanwell Asylum.
W. C. Engledue, M.D., Southsea.
M. Castle, M.D , Milan.
E. Ritterbandt, M.D.
Edward Sheppard Symes, 38, Hill-street, Berkeley-square.
Captain John James, Dover.
Daniel Thomas Evans, Temple.
Henry U. Janson, President of the Exeter Literary and Philosophical Society.
Edward Wise, Temple.
F. C. Margary, Hampstead.
H. G. Atkinson, F.G.S., 18, Upper Gloucester-place.
Nathaniel Ogle.
W. Topham, Temple.
H. Ballière, Regent-street.
John Hulme, Exeter.
H. S. Thompson, Fairfield.
H. Storer, M.D., Grenville-street (now of Bath).

Adolphe, the brother of Alexis, possesses the power of Clairvoyance to nearly an equal degree. The *Critic* for the 15th of April last, contains a very interesting account of the trials before the Society for the Investigation of Mesmerism.

Adolphe was also exhibited at Bath and Clifton, at which meetings were some of the most respectable and influential parties, all of whom expressed their satisfaction at the fairness and results of the experiments. Adolphe is now in London, and will well repay a visit from the curious or scientific.

I avail myself of this opportunity to refer to the conduct of a few medical men here in reference to Mesmerism, and more particularly to Clairvoyance and the case of Jane Knowles. If the subject had been confined to Bath, I should not have taken any further notice, as the matter was fully discussed in the local papers; but these gentlemen have been circulating *even to this period* a one-sided report in different journals,—that I do not exaggerate, I will mention that I have seen very lately accounts in three separate pamphlets. In justice, therefore, to Dr. Owens, myself, and the patient, I will give a condensed account of what actually occurred, and on which they ground a charge of fraud. A certain set of experiments took place at the Photographic Institution in this city. The patient on being mesmerised read distinctly *four times* through opaque substances, such as the covers of books when firmly and skilfully secured by string. The proprietor was so struck with the results, as voluntarily and emphatically to declare, that he should feel it his duty to go to every medical man he knew and thus state his convictions. *After the experiments*, four medical men called at the Institution; one of them, Mr. Thomas Barrett, retires into a separate room with one of the books, and presently returns, saying he had discovered the way in which the reading was effected: on now looking at the book, Dr. Owens and myself find *one of the strings broken and the cover much creased.* Mr. Barrett admits this, but says it makes no difference! as it was done in his attempt to shew how the reading was accomplished; and at a subsequent meeting, said he was so confused he did not know what he did. On this meagre evidence a letter appeared, headed "*Fraud Detected*," signed by *four medical men, not one of whom* had witnessed a single *one of the experiments;* and the only collateral proof appears to have been this, that because Mr. Barrett, with the full use of his sight (the patient was in the mesmeric state), and by breaking one of the knots, was able to make out a portion of reading similar to the patient's, that therefore the little girl must have been an impostor. Our reply was and is still, that, judging from what she had previously done many times when rigidly tested—what she had accomplished that very afternoon four times—and what she has repeatedly done since (see Bristol and Cheltenham papers), that there was not the slightest occasion for the presumed fraud; and further, we both being *present*, and having paid much attention to

the subject, and having only truth for our object, are as fully able to form an opinion as those who were *absent;* and we further believe, that the presumed fraud could not have been committed without immediate detection, as was shewn by us in Mr. Barrett's own attempt.

To judge dispassionately on matters we have never seen, requires the mind to be free from all prejudice; let us then, on this subject, hear the expressed and written opinions of those who had constituted themselves judges of mesmeric phenomena. Dr. Ferguson, at a meeting in the City Rooms, though he ackowledged Dr. Elliotson's claims on the Profession, considered him a lost man, because he believed in Clairvoyance; and from conviction, in the evidence of his own senses. Mr. Barrett declared it as *his* opinion, that any one who believed in such nonsence must be devoid of common sense; and Dr. Cardew has twice written, that he "always had, and ever should consider the subject the grossest humbug."

I conclude these remarks with a short account of Jane Knowles at Cheltenham, after leaving Bath, and attested by the editors of two newspapers there, with many others:—

[*From the Cheltenham Examiner.*]

"Yesterday morning, we had an opportunity of witnessing Jane Knowles for the first time. She is a slightly made, intelligent girl, about twelve years of age. On being placed in the mesmeric state by Dr. Owens, she tried her strength on a gentleman present, weighing, as he stated, 14 stone, or 200 lbs. He was lifted with ease from the ground. The patient was then put through a series of phrenological experiments, which proved successful; and at last exhibited that peculiar condition of clairvoyance, wherein the patient is supposed to read and see what passes with the eyes firmly closed. In this state, a lady and gentleman of the audience, one holding the hands firmly over the eyes, and the other placing a printed paper in the patient's hand, the characters were deciphered with ease. Several things were read in this manner, such as passages selected at random from books, address cards, and hand-bills, and all with the same result. Yesterday evening the patient was put under a more searching examination: on that occasion, determined to test the reality of the exhibition to the utmost, Mr. A. Harper, of the *Free Press,* provided himself with a new book, a copy of which the patient had never seen; and Mr. Norman, of the *Examiner,* ap-

plied his hands to the patient's eyes. The utmost care was taken that no trick could be played: the eyes were closely held down, and the experiment watched throughout, yet the patient read not only the title-page of the book, but one or two other portions of print which were presented to her. Similar experiments were made by others of the audience with the like success. It was the general opinion among the spectators, that the exhibition was perfectly genuine; it certainly was of those who applied the different tests. It is the more necessary to make this admission, if only as an act of justice to Dr. Owens and the little girl, who have been lately denounced as impostors, and on the authority, it is said, of individuals who never themselves witnessed any of the experiments.

"Dr. Owens then alluded to the wager between himself and Dr. Cardew of Bath, who had offered to lay £1000 to £100, that a case could not be produced of reading a word enclosed in a box. Dr. Cardew most unhandsomely evaded his challenge, by stipulating, amongst other things, that he should be allowed to hold a string attached to the box, during the experiments; whilst that Dr. Owens should not come within so many feet of his patient; that the experiments should be confined to three or four of *his own friends;* and, although Dr. Cardew professed to allow an hour daily for a month, he *afterwards* inserted a clause making *one failure final.* These conditions he termed fair and honorable; but such peculiar illustrations induced Dr. Owens to withdraw from such an unequal contest."—[See also Bristol papers for December, 1844.]

As Dr. Cardew has repeated his challenge in one of the papers referred to, I am deputed on the part of a gentleman to say, that, subject to *fair and honourable conditions,* he is quite ready to accept the challenge. Dr. Cardew offered, if he won, to give £100 to the Bath Hospital: my friend makes the same offer; therefore, if Dr. Cardew is "always sincere in his professions," the Hospital is sure of £100 from one of the parties, with which sum the Governors may lay the foundation of a Mesmeric Ward, and then mesmerism can be applied to many cases, which have hitherto been discharged as incurable. If Dr. Cardew now declines, we must consider his professions *Vox et pretarea nihil.*

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